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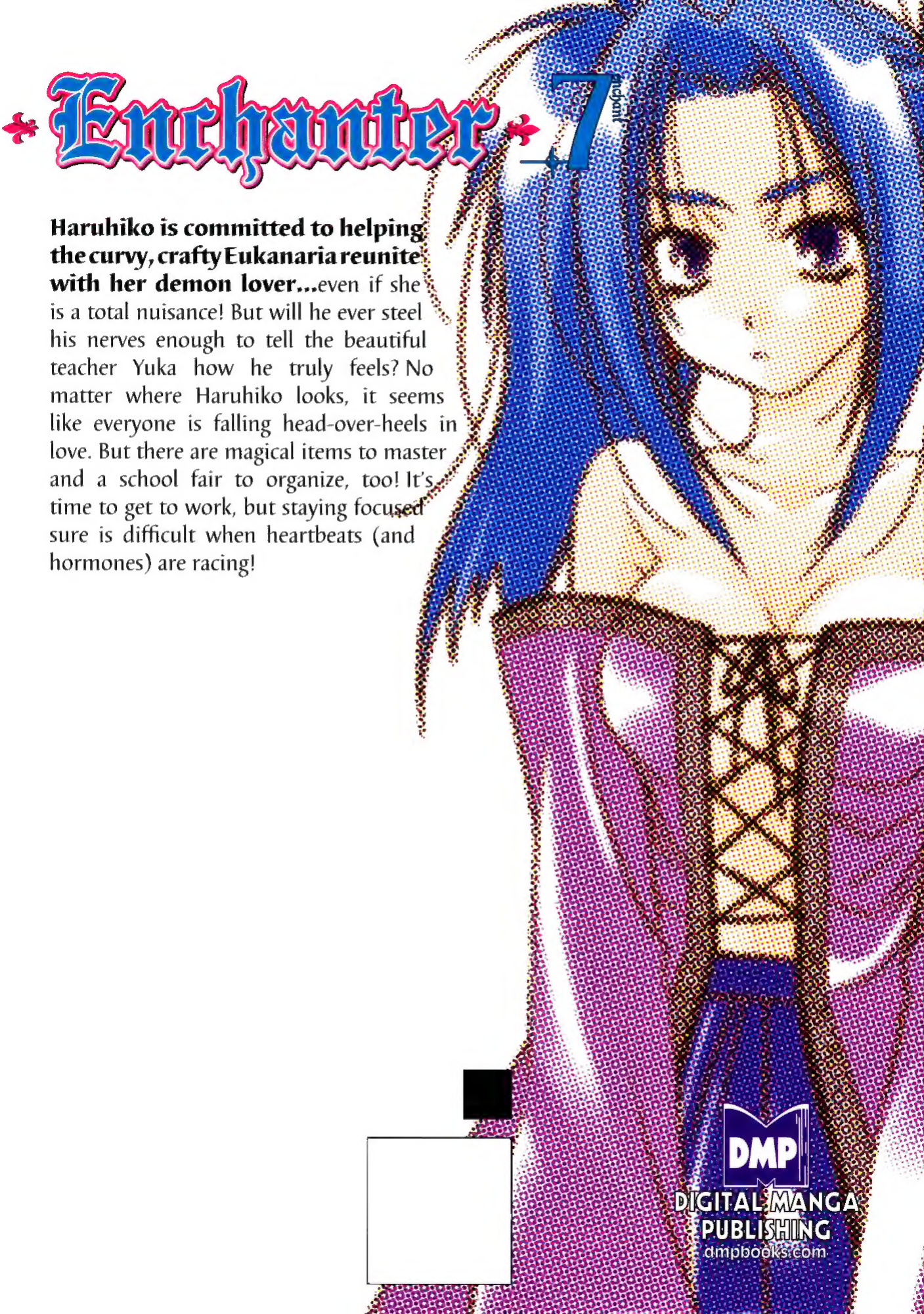
Enchanter

enchant 7

IZUMI KAWACHI

Enchanter 7



Haruhiko is committed to helping the curvy, crafty Eukanaria reunite with her demon lover...even if she is a total nuisance! But will he ever steel his nerves enough to tell the beautiful teacher Yuka how he truly feels? No matter where Haruhiko looks, it seems like everyone is falling head-over-heels in love. But there are magical items to master and a school fair to organize, too! It's time to get to work, but staying focused sure is difficult when heartbeats (and hormones) are racing!

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IZUMI KAWACHI

I'M SO FORGETFUL LATELY...

A lady who is desperately trying her best, despite all her clumsiness, is adorable indeed. Of course the superwoman who is able to accomplish everything with perfect precision is extremely cool and attractive as well. I like them both.

With this volume, we begin the tale of Miss Mercurio.

Will Haruhiko be able to decipher the signals she is sending to him? Will Haruhiko's effort and determination get through to Eukanaria and Yuka?

...Geez, what a dense bunch they are!

Enchanter

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IZUMI KAWACHI

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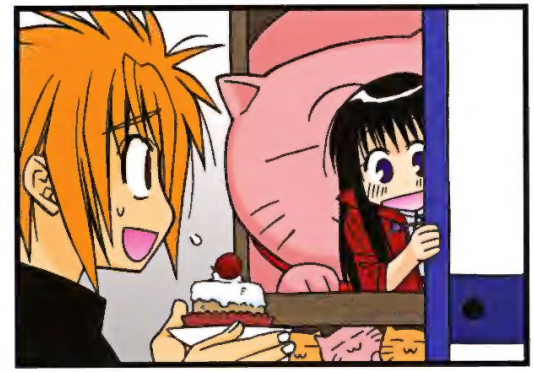
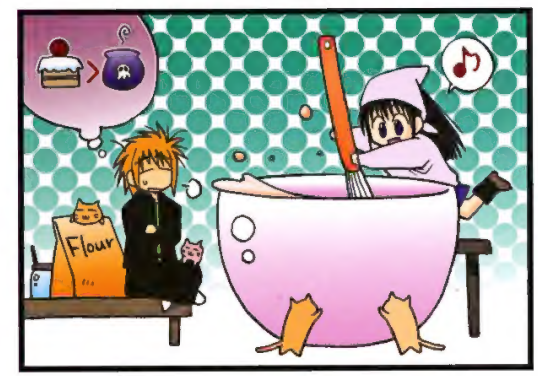
INUMI KAWACHI

Haruhiko is committed to helping the curvy, crafty Eukanaria reunite with her demon lover...even if she is a total nuisance! But will he ever steel his nerves enough to tell the beautiful teacher Yuka how he truly feels? No matter where Haruhiko looks, it seems like everyone is falling head-over-heels in love. But there are magical items to master and a school fair to organize, too! It's time to get to work, but staying focused sure is difficult when heartbeats (and hormones) are racing!





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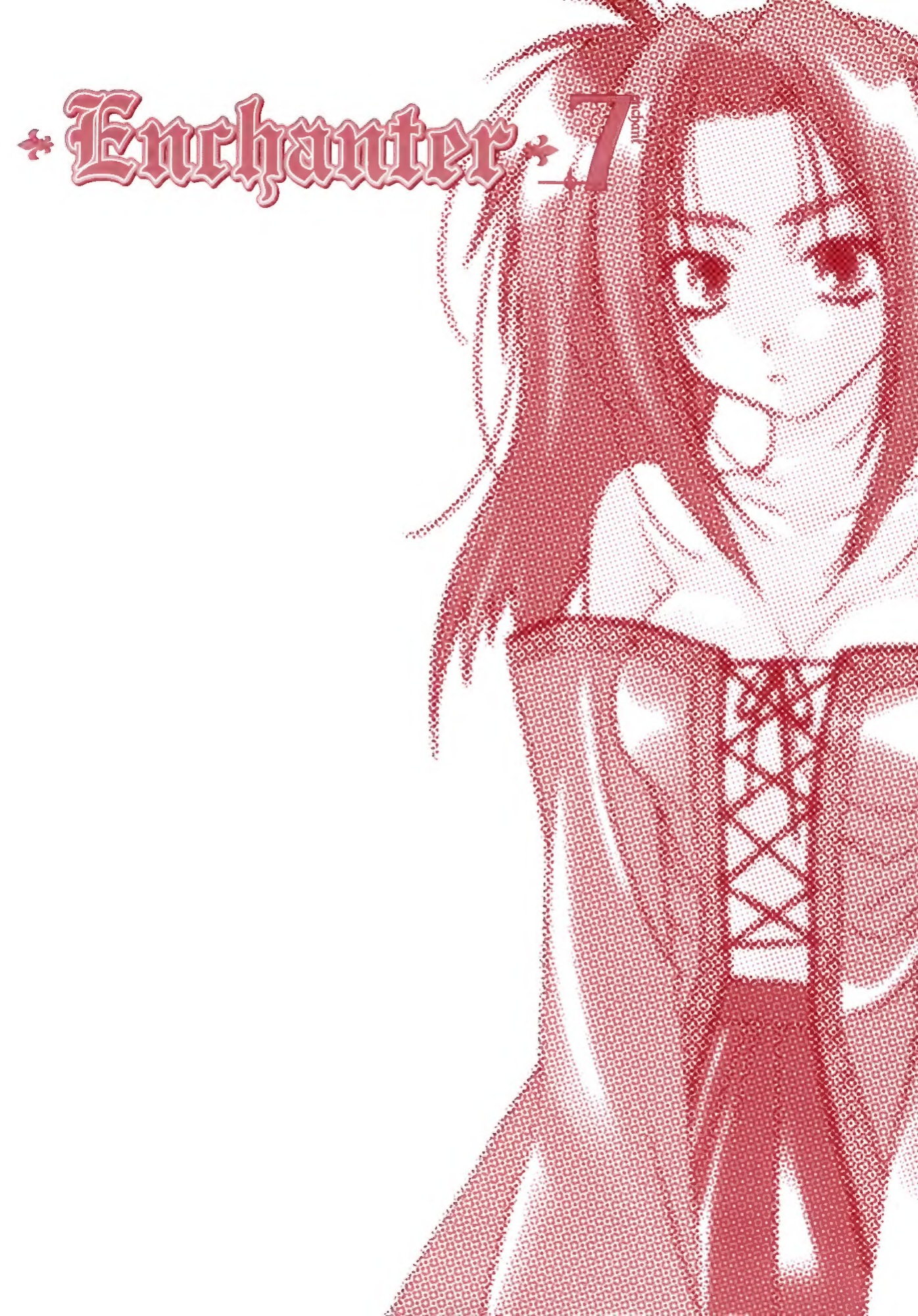

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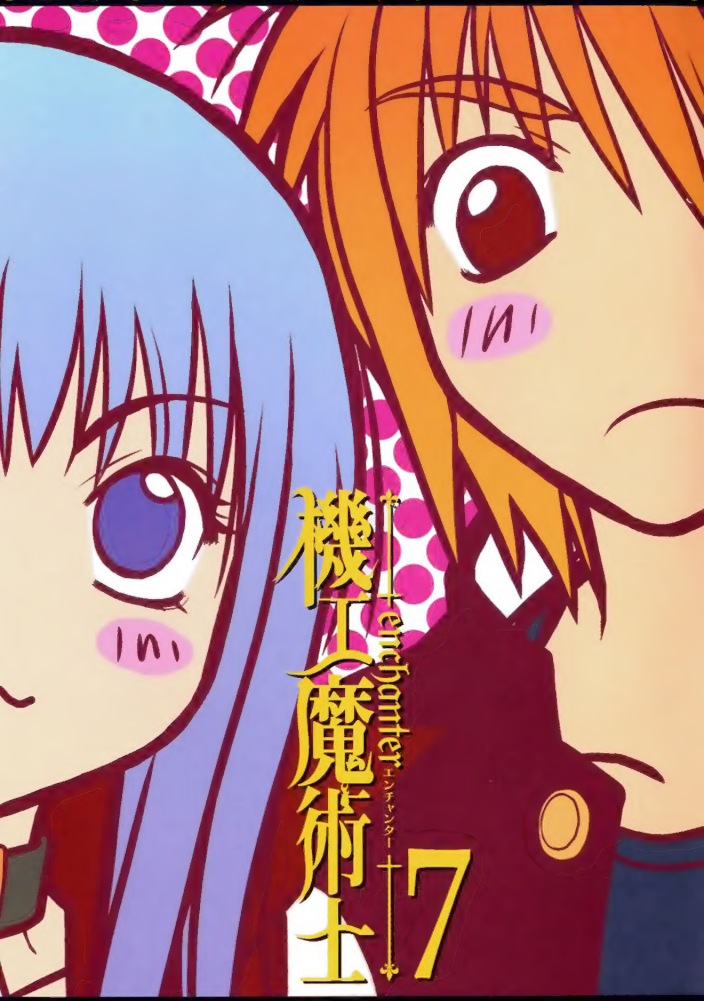

機工魔術士 enchanter エンチャンター 7

Izumi Kawachi Presents

Enchanter 7 enchant

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WHICH MEANS... HE ***REALLY*** WAS NEARLY FINISHED WITH THIS.

OHHH, I GET IT!

THESE THINGS CALLED ***DAMPERS*** ARE RAISED WHEN THE PEDAL IS PRESSED.

HEY,

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

HUH? CAN'T YOU TELL? I'M FINISHING CONSTRUCTING THIS PIANO.

...
...
...

KCHIK

KCHAK

I SEE, I SEE...WOW, PIANOS SURE ARE INGENIOUSLY MADE!

EVEN IF THAT'S ALL...

...IT MEANS ANOTHER ENCHANTER'S WILL IS GOING TO GET MIXED IN AND INFUSED AS WELL. CUT IT OUT!

ADOLPH WAS WORKING ON THAT! WHY ARE YOU MEDDLING WITH IT NOW?

NOW, NOW...

YOU SAY "*MEDDLING*," BUT ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS ATTACH THE PEDALS!

WELL, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT EFFECT THE "MIXING UP" IS GOING TO HAVE, BUT...

...ADOLPH MENTIONED THE REASON HE WAS CRAFTING THIS.

I HAVE AN IDEA OF THE ENCHANTMENT HE WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE, SO...

ANYWAY, WEREN'T YOU AGAINST ADOLPH MAKING THE PIANO?

URK...!

I JUST TOLD HIM NOT TO PUT AN ENCHANTMENT ON A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT!

YOU'RE SO STUBBORN ...

THEN WHAT DO YOU CARE WHO WORKS ON IT NOW?

I- I WASN'T AGAINST IT OR ANYTHING ...

WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LET HIM MAKE WHAT HE WANTS?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CHOSE ADOLPH AND MADE HIM AN ENCHANTER, RIGHT?

I'M SAYING YOU SHOULD FORGIVE HIM.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

YOU TRY MAKING ONE FROM SCRATCH, THEN!!

MRRGH!

AGH!

WHAT?! DON'T YOU DARE SAY IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL!!

HA HA HA...SO WHICH IS IT, THEN?

SHE FELL FOR IT SO EASILY...

HUMANS HAVE NO NEED FOR ENCHANTED IMPLEMENTS!

I'M SAYING IT'S A WASTE OF TIME FOR HIM TO MAKE USELESS THINGS!

YOU SAY "ENCHANTED" ...BUT THIS PIANO'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.

...YOU REALLY HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THE REASONS BEHIND THIS PIANO, HAVE YOU?

UGH...

...!

OH, WELL... I GUESS IF ADOLPH COULD TELL YOU THAT, HE WOULDN'T NEED TO MAKE THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE...

...

...

I HAVE! HE'S JUST MAKING IT FOR SOME NEIGHBORHOOD KID ---

?

エンチャント
enchant.25

アヴェ ウェルム
Ave Verum

コルプス ケー
Corpus・K618

...BUT I'VE NEVER PLAYED AN INSTRUMENT BEFORE.

WHAT TO DO...I WONDER IF IT'LL PLAY THE RIGHT NOTES?

THERE - *DONE!*

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TEST IT OUT...

LAVOIX, CAN YOU PLAY ANYTHING?

WELL, I GUESS I CAN AT LEAST TRY OUT THE PEDALS...

OH!

DEMONS DON'T PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. HUMANS CAME UP WITH THOSE THINGS ON THEIR OWN!

OF COURSE NOT.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT!

I CAN HEAR IT.

BUT IT'S GRATING... IT'S JUST NOISE!

...HUH?

ARE YOU SAYING...YOU DEMONS CAN'T HEAR THE MUSIC OF HUMANS?

IS IT LIKE WHEN JAPANESE PEOPLE CAN'T UNDERSTAND SPOKEN ENGLISH?

MAYBE IT'D BE EASIER FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND IF I TOLD YOU IT'S LIKE HEARING A DIFFERENT FREQUENCY.

FRE-QUEN-CY... OH, I GET IT.

SO THAT'S WHY HE HAD TO ENCHANT IT...

NOISE...

HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER? HUMANS AND DEMONS ARE BEINGS FROM DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS. WE DON'T SHARE THE SAME SENSIBILITIES.

WHAT?

IS BASED ON A MISUNDER-STANDING.

THEN MAYBE THAT BIASED VIEW YOU HAVE OF HUMANS...

YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OUR MUSIC PROPERLY, IN YOUR OWN FREQUENCY.

IT JUST MEANS WE'RE NOT "GETTING THROUGH" TO YOU, RIGHT?

HAHAHAH

I'VE BROUGHT HER.

KTHUNK

?

!

OH!

WE'RE ALL SET OVER HERE.

OHH, WHAT A TINY LITTLE PIANIST.

INGRID -

THE PIANO IS READY.

REALLY?

CAN I PLAY IT?

YEAH.

THANK YOU, BIG BROTHER!

YAAAY!

WOW, IT'S SO CUTE!

TA-TAP

I SEE...

YOU'RE SO TALENTED... I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

I PRACTICED A LOT OF SONGS!

BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO HEAR THEM ---

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HEAR?

LET'S SEE...

...
...
...

BLUSH...

HUH...?

...

...!

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE HER CHANGE HER MIND?

!

THIS LADY...

SHE DOESN'T LIKE MUSIC VERY MUCH.

MMM...

I DON'T KNOW... BUT...

I'LL TRY PLAYING A FEW THINGS.

I'M SURE THERE'LL BE SOMETHING SHE LIKES.

...OH...

SHE'S REALLY GOOD...

HEY, ADOLPH - THE PIANO SOUNDS GREAT.

WHISPER

YOU'RE AMAZING.

NO...

IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S SO TALENTED.

LAVOIX...

I HOPE SHE'S HEARING THIS...

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY PROBLEM WITH IT AS AN ENCHANTED IMPLEMENT...

...WHETHER LAVOIX IS HEARING IT OR NOT.

IT'S ABOUT WHETHER HEARING IT CHANGES HER MIND -

WHA ...?!

DUUUN

GAHH?!

GRR ...

JUMP!

ヒカリ

PURR ...

WHOA ?!

I...IS THAT A DEMON?! WHAT THE HECK IS IT DOING HERE?! IS IT A PET OF YOURS OR SOMETHING?!

SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER

AAAA-ADOLPH ...!

ADOLPH! LOOK!

HUH?

♫ ♪ ♩ ♫ ♪

PRRR

HOP

!

W-WHY IS IT...?

A PET...? NO...

W-

WAIT A MINUTE... SOMETHING'S KINDA STRANGE.

H-HARUHIKO, WHAT SHALL WE DO?

DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT BE AFTER INGRID...?

♪ ♫ ♪

PRRR!

TO THE PIANO...

...
...

THEY'RE... LISTENING ...?

GYU!

POP

THEY CAME TO LISTEN...?

...
...
...

WOW!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

Y-YOU! NERAGA!

TH!

...
...!

WHAP!

GUUU--?!

GUUU---?!

GYU.

YOU MEAN... YOU CAME HERE TO LISTEN TO THE PIANO, TOO?

NOD

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GYU"?!

ARE YOU SERIOUS...? DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STAY CLOSE TO YUKA? NOW SHE'LL WORRY ABOUT YOU AGAIN...

GYU!

GYU!

SHAKE

WHAT? NO?

HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YUKA?

SHAKE

OH...?

I MADE HIS FAVORITE CAKE...

I WONDER WHERE GYU-CHAN COULD HAVE GONE...?

IS THIS...

A NOTE ...?

...

HARU-
HIKO -

YOU'RE NOT ANGRY?

...
...

GOOD JOB, ADOLPH.

YOU CONSTRUCTED THE ENCHANTED PIANO PROPERLY.

♪

GYU...

NOT PARTICULARLY.

♪

HM?

OH -

NEVER MIND THAT! ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU HAVE TO CLEAR UP?

...
...
...

LOOK...
LAVOIX -

LAVOIX -

WHAT'S -
...

G...

WHAT IS
THIS...?

SHE'S
LOOKING
KINDA
PAINED.

ARE YOU *STUPID?*

EVEN IF I LISTEN TO THIS...

...I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING ABOUT HUMAN MUSIC!

INSTEAD OF MAKING WEAPONS ...

YOU WERE WORKING ON SOME-THING LIKE THIS...?!

LAVOIX... THAT'S -

NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG - WE'RE SORRY... WE JUST WANTED YOU TO UNDER-STAND...

N-NO, IT'S NOT THAT -

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TRYING TO DO?!

YIKES...

ARE YOU MAKING A FOOL OF ME?!

YOU'RE CRUEL!

EVEN PLACING AN ENCHANTMENT ON IT ---

I STILL DON'T GET IT...

I WANT TO UNDERSTAND, BUT I CAN'T.

ADOLPH NEVER TELLS ME ANYTHING...

HE'S ALWAYS DEFERRING...

HE NEVER TEACHES ME ANYTHING.

...
...
...

I'M NOT A HUMAN...

ADOLPH, HEY.

SO I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT... I DON'T BELONG...I SHOULDN'T BE HERE!

ADOLPH!

...
...
...

TO WORK FOR DEMONS - FOR LAVOIX - SO SHE COULD RETURN...

TO MAKE WEAPONS... AND ROB OTHER DEMONS OF THEIR POWER...

THAT IS THE ENCHANTER'S PURPOSE... THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD.

LAVOIX ...

I'M SORRY... BUT LIVING LIKE THAT IS TOO PAINFUL FOR ME.

BUT...

WHAT IS THIS?! STOP IT ALREADY!

YES! THAT'S RIGHT ...!

WON'T YOU GIVE UP ON THE IDEA OF RETURNING HOME TO YOUR WORLD?

I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO FORCE YOU INTO IT. THAT'S ALL.

I GUESS MAYBE IT WAS THE WRONG ATTITUDE TO TAKE.

WHAT I WANT...

IS FOR YOU TO STAY HERE... ALWAYS.

SNARL!

I'M SORRY ...

BUT YOU KNOW, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND SOME THINGS ENTERTAINING ABOUT THE HUMAN WORLD, TOO...

...!

DON'T APOLOGIZE! YOU IDIOT!

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FELT, YOU SHOULD HAVE... =HIC=

...SAID SO SOONER ...

THEN...EVEN I...WOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU...JUST A LITTLE BIT... =HIC=

...

...

...

=HIC=

SORRY ...

I SAID, DON'T APOLOGIZE.

SOR— ...

OH...

EHH
SHOCK!
HUH ?!
WHUMP
WHOA!
BIG BROTHER ADOLPH...
ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY THIS LADY?
WHO'D MARRY THIS SLACKER ?!
HRMM --- ...
BUT...
"BUT" NOTHING! DON'T SAY SUCH STUPID THINGS!
Booo
Y-Y-YOU PRECO-CIOUS BRAT !!
W-W-W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
OF COURSE NOT! WE COULDN'T!!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHAAA?
WHAAA?
SIGH...
THINGS ARE FINALLY RESOLVED ...
WOMEN SURE ARE COMPLI-CATED...

I'M HOME - ...

OH MAN, AM I TIRED...

THAT PHRASE HAS BECOME ROUTINE FOR ME LATELY...

DOES HE REALLY UNDER-STAND WHAT I'M TELLING HIM...?

VWWM...

GYU -

OKAY, NERAGA - YOU GO BACK TO YUKA NOW.

GYU.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STAY BY YUKA'S SIDE! LOOK AFTER HER SO NO WEIRD DEMONS GET NEAR HER.

SIGH

...
...
...

OKAY THEN ...

HEY YOU-CHERRY-BOY!

WHEEZE

GASP

YAAY, I'M GONNA GO MICROWAVE IT RIGHT NOW

NOW I CAN FINALLY EAT THAT MEAL YUKA MADE ME.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT -

ARE YOU OKAY?

HUFF

YOU...! WHO DO YOU THINK -

WHAT ARE YOU CASUALLY IGNORING ME FOR...?

GASP

WHEEZE

WHAT A BUZZKILL...

WOW... THAT'S SO ANNOYING...

CREAK...

WHAT A SIGHT...

H-HEY, SERIOUSLY - ARE YOU OKAY?

NO, I'M NOT...!

SLUMP

YIKES!

UNF...

HUFF

OHHH...

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS...?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE TWO, ANYWAY?

OH... YEAH.

THEY WON'T BE A PROBLEM ANYMORE. WE'VE RESOLVED ALL THAT.

JUST WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO YOU?

COME ON, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.

URRGH...

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? ADOLPH SUDDENLY SIPHONED OFF MY POWER.

WELL, YEAH...

THEY SHOULD'VE JUST BEEN HONEST WITH EACH OTHER...

AND JUST SAID, "I WANT TO STAY TOGETHER WITH YOU."

YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...

I SWEAR ...

WHAT FOOLS... BEING SO STUBBORN. AND SUCKING US INTO THEIR TROUBLES, ON TOP OF EVERYTHING.

JUMP!

THUD

NOT EVERYONE IS A SIMPLE AIRHEAD LIKE Y-

WHOAAA ---?!

UH... 'SCUSE ME JUST A SEC...

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

H-HEY - WHOA!

EUKA-NARIA -

THANK YOU...

HARUHIKO... YOU WERE KIND OF COOL TODAY.

HAAAH...

...HUH?

THEN...

LOOM

ぐい

Go

...

...

...

WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA CHARGE FOR THAT JUST NOW?

DANG ...

YOU'RE NOT FAIR, YOU KNOW THAT...?

GLARE

NO, YOU FOOL - MY POWER! THAT THE KID STOLE FROM ME!

OH-

YOU *DID* GET IT BACK FROM HIM...DIDN'T YOU?

-HUFF-

-GASP-

ぱ

ぱ

HM?

HEY -

WHAT'S WRONG? THERE'S NO POWER IN YOUR BITE.

CHOMP

SORRY, SORRY — I'M SO FORGETFUL LATELY!

OHHH - I COMPLETELY BLANKED OUT!

GRRR

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BITE ME...

URRRGH...

UGH...

I TOLD YOU...

I DON'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH LEFT IN ME...

HARU-HIKO -

I'VE BROUGHT IT. I'M SO SORRY...WE'VE REALLY CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.

TAP

NO, NO.

IF YOU'RE THAT WEAK, THEN DON'T ATTACK ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THIS IS KINDA ENTERTAINING - WHY DON'T YOU STAY THAT WAY A BIT LONGER?

MRRGH!

SHE MUST BE ANGRY.

EUKANARIA? YEAH.

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.

AS LONG AS I CAN HAVE EUKANARIA'S POWER BACK, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

HARUHIKO... HAVE YOU MET THIS "FULCANELLI" BEFORE?

HM?

BUT SHE'LL FORGET ABOUT IT AS SOON AS SHE GETS HER STRENGTH BACK.

UM...

I'LL SEE IF SHE'S AT HOME

THEN I HEARD THAT THE REAL OWNER OF THAT POWER IS THE ONE WHO MADE A PACT WITH MISS ELKANARIA.

SINCE I WAS RESEARCHING FOR LAVOIX'S SAKE...

I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN THAT POWER YOU HAVE FOR A LONG TIME NOW.

JUST ONCE. BUT I BARELY SPOKE TO HIM.

WHY?

BUT I'M NOT ALL THAT CRAZY ABOUT HIM, YOU KNOW...?

THUMP

...CONSIDERING HOW HE'S JUST IGNORING HER-LEAVING HER ON HER OWN LIKE THIS...

GO! I FIGURED HE MUST BE ONE HECK OF A GUY...

YEAH, WHEN YOU CONSIDER HE TAMED THAT WILD CHILD!...

あはははは……は――……

SOMEHOW...

I DON'T LIKE HIM.

THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO DRAG HIM OUT.

WHAT? REALLY?

YOU MAKE SOME GOOD TOOLS, SO THAT'LL BE A BIG HELP!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP...

PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

WE'RE PALS - *PALS!*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I TOLD YOU THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST.

YES.

UH... YES...

IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, HARUHIKO...

NEVER MIND THAT, ADOLPH -

I'D RATHER ASK YOU FOR ADVICE ABOUT HOW TO GET A GIRLFRIEND.

WHAT ...?

WHY NOT JUST CONFESS TO THE PERSON YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH...?

THE END.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

HUH...?

THUMP

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, EUKANARIA.

Z...

SLEEPING...? THEN I GUESS IT CAN WAIT...

I HAD HIM BRING ME THE TOOL CONTAINING YOUR POWER.

I WONDER... WHILE SHE HASN'T GOT HER POWER...

H...MM...

...COULD IT BE THAT SHE ISN'T ABLE TO TAKE MY SOUL, EITHER...?

222

222

BUT, AS ALWAYS ...

SHE REALLY DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF ME AS A DUDE, DOES SHE...?

AT LEAST COVER YOURSELF UP...

URGH...

UPS
WHAT A
DILEMMA

I WORK SO HARD
AND I'M STILL
ASSAILED BY ONE
PHYSICAL NEED
AFTER ANOTHER.

GRRR TO
THINK OF
IT!
—HAVEN'T
EATEN
FOR A
WHOLE
DAY

HUH
?!

GRRRR!

A...

AT ANY
RATE...I
GUESS
I'LL EAT

I'LL
TREAT
MYSELF.
YEAH.

OH -

YUKA - WAIT!

!

Y-YEAH, UM...

YOU KNOW... ABOUT THAT MEAL YOU MADE FOR ME...

I WANTED TO RETURN THE CONTAINERS AND THINGS TO YOU...

OH... KANOU-KUN.

IS THERE... SOMETHING YOU WANTED?

HUHH—!!

H...

I KNOCKED AT YOUR DOOR YESTERDAY BUT YOU WEREN'T H-

NOD

NOD...

MM...

I'M ALL RIGHT. IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY AND HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING MUCH SLEEP...

A-ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU TIRED?

OH... NO, NO.

BLINK

HUH ...?!

Y-YUKA ...?

THWAP THWAP

WASN'T THERE A COMEDIAN WITH AN ACT LIKE THIS...?

YEAH...

AND THEN...

ZZZ...

BUT...I'M FINE...TO TEACH CLASS...

THWAP

GYU...

UH-HUH ...

OH...YES? I'M SORRY, HARUHIKO-KUN...WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

エンチャント

enchant. 26

THE TEACHER AND I

せんせいとぼく

先生と僕

REVIEW LESSONS... THAT'S EXTRA TIME ADDED TO REGULAR HOURS...

WE STUDENTS DON'T LIKE TAKING THEM, BUT IT MUST BE HARD FOR THE TEACHERS, TOO...

...TEACHERS MUST HAVE IT TOUGH, TOO.

HMM ...

I'M OFTEN TOO BUSY TO GET MUCH SLEEP EITHER, BUT...

I'M HOME -

WE'RE SORRY ~♡

TEE HEE! ♡

I KNOW SOME GUYS WHO NEED TO TRY A LITTLE MORE.

MAKING YUKA WORK SO HARD...!

REMEDIAL CHEMISTRY LESSON PARTICIPANTS

KCHAK

SORRY I'M LATE, ELIKANARIA -

I WENT FOR SOME SHOPPING AND I LOST TRACK OF TIME...

YOU KNOW, IF I ONLY NEGLECTED MY CHEMISTRY LESSONS JUST A BIT MORE...

I COULD JOIN IN YUKA'S REMEDIAL LESSONS, TOO...! HMM...

WHAT'S THIS? ALL OF A SUDDEN...

DOOOM...

I'M SORRY, HARUHIKO - I DID IT.

...

ペコリ

BOW

YEAH?

ON THE SCHOOL TRIP...?

REMEMBER HOW WE WENT TO HAWAII LAST WEEK?

WELL...I TOOK SOME OF YUKA'S CLOTHES AND STUFF.

OH! SO YOU'LL LISTEN TO MY STORY? YOU'RE SO NICE!

WHAT DID YOU DO?

I DON'T KNOW IF I REALLY WANNA HEAR THIS, BUT...

IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO. JUST KEEP THAT IN MIND.

URGH!

I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE THEM BACK THE WAY THEY WERE, SO I WASHED THEM.

JUST A MINUTE, OK? I'LL GO GET THEM - THEY'RE HANGING UP TO DRY OUTSIDE.

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

AAAGGHH!! WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?! HURRY AND GET THEM INSIDE - !!

SOME-ONE WILL SEE - !!

OH...IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

I ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THAT... DON'T WORRY.

WHAT? YOU KNEW ALREADY, HARUHIKO?!

OHHHH...YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN HIDING THEM IN THE WORKSHOP - AND I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT UNTIL TODAY.

WHEW - ほ

WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING ABOUT IT NOW? ALL OF A SUDDEN...

SIGH...I GOT ALL NERVOUS FOR NOTHING...

BUT IF YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT IT ALREADY, THEN THAT'S FINE. I'LL GO RETURN THEM.

WHAT?

TODAY?

IT'S GOING TO LOOK LIKE I STOLE YUKA'S UNDER-WEAR!!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO IF SOMEONE SAW?! YOU SIMPLETON !!

NO! NO WAY!!

STOMP STOMP STOMP

STOMP STOMP

SIT DOWN! YOU'RE GONNA GET A GOOD TALKING-TO!!

NOOOO - NO LECTURES -

OHHH, WHAT IS IT NOW? IT'S NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT, IS IT? I APOLOGIZED!

CLATTER

DUMMY! YOU DUMMY!

STUPID CHILD! REALLY!

URRGH!!

HRRMM...

NOW I'VE GOT EVEN MORE THINGS TO RETURN TO YUKA...

DO IT TOMORROW, IN SECRET - PLEASE.

BESIDES, IT'S NIGHT. YUKA'S BACK HOME ALREADY.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO? THEY'RE YUKA'S LINGERIE.

DON'T SAY "UNDIES"...IT MAKES ME FEEL... STRANGE...

OH...NO...PLEASE, HARUHIKO-KUN...GIVE THEM BACK...

?

LIKE I SAID - I'LL RETURN YUKA'S UNDIES MYSELF.

SO DON'T GET MAD.

HMPH!

ふふん

WHAT...? WHAT'S WITH THE UPPITY 'TUDE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

YOU SURE DON'T UNDERSTAND A YOUNG MAN'S FEELINGS.

FOR SOMEONE WHO'S HAD A BOY-FRIEND...

THE REASON WE'RE SO CHARMED BY A WOMAN'S UNDER-GARMENTS...

IS NOT BECAUSE OF THE ACTUAL GARMENT ITSELF.

MOCHI

AND HOW IT SEDUCES US INTO IMAGINING WHAT'S *INSIDE* THOSE GARMENTS.

IT'S BECAUSE OF ITS CONNECTION TO THE WOMAN WHO WEARS IT...

RUSTLE...

?

IT'S ACTUALLY A MUCH DEEPER SENTIMENT THAN YOU ALL THINK, YOU KNOW?

GLOOM...

おお

おお

おお...

DON'T OPEN THINGS WITHOUT PERMISSION! AND PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I'M SAYING!!

HEY!!

IT'S SOOO CREEPY-CUTE!!!

NO WAAAY!

HARUHIKO! YOU GOTTA LET ME HAVE THIS!

"THEN"?!

THEN PLEEEAAASE LET ME HAVE THIS, HARUHIKO - ♡

HUFF HUFF

WOMEN - THEY JUST DON'T CONNECT, DO THEY?

MOCHI

GAH!!

EEK!

FLAP

I WAS LISTENING. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU LIKE 'EM WHILE THEY'RE IN USE, RIGHT?

NO! I'M SAYING IT'S BECAUSE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO THINGS!!

HERE, HAVE A LOOK!!

HUH?

YOU'RE GIVING THIS TO YUKA?

ANYWAY - YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT ONE.

I BOUGHT IT FOR YUKA. PUT IT BACK.

HUH?! WAIT A MINUTE - WEREN'T YOU IN LOVE WITH THAT THING JUST A SECOND AGO?!

NO WONDER YOU CAN'T GET GIRLS...

YOU HAVE STRANGE TASTE, HARUHIKO.

IT'S CALLED A "MR. MO-CHITTO".

UMM...

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF, BUT APPARENTLY IT'S POPULAR AMONG GIRLS.

CREAK...

NO, I MEANT IF YOU PICKED IT OUT BECAUSE *YOU* LIKED IT...

THEN IT'S WEIRD...

SNIFF SNIFF

OHHH -

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT SMELLS FAINTLY OF MOCHI...

NO, YOU DUMMY! IT'S SOME KIND OF FLOWER.

THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE OF IT THAT GIVES OFF A FRAGRANCE.

THAT'S WHAT THE LADY AT THE STORE TOLD ME.

IT'S A THANK-YOU GIFT TO YUKA FOR THE MEAL SHE MADE ME.

...AND SHE SEEMS KINDA TIRED LATELY, SO...

WELL, I WANTED TO GIVE HER SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP HER RELAX A BIT...

YEAH, I SUPPOSE.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE GETTING SOMETHING LIKE THIS, HANDMADE BY A GUY, WOULD BE A LITTLE -...

I SEE...

BUT IF YOU WANTED SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU SHOULD'VE JUST CONSTRUCTED SOMETHING YOURSELF AND ENCHANTED IT.

OHHH - WHAT ARE YOU BEING SO TIMID FOR?

YOU ALREADY BOUGHT IT, SO QUIT WAFFLING AND JUST GIVE IT TO HER!

UMM...YOU KNOW...

DO YOU THINK YUKA WILL LIKE IT...?

SO TELL ME THE TRUTH - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BESIDES, DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN WHO'D TOSS BACK A GIFT GIVEN OUT OF CONSIDERATION?

IS THAT THE KIND OF WOMAN YOU WANT TO PROTECT?

もちーん！
MOCHIIN!
THIS THING IS SUPER-CUTE!!
AGAIN WITH THE COMEDY—
I TOTALLY LOVE THIS THING!
DON'T WORRY! DON'T WORRY! YUKA WILL LIKE IT, TOO!
I WANT MORE— TONS OF THEM!
MOCHI
I GUESS...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
U
UH...NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON! PLEASE, TAKE IT!!
AS THANKS, I'LL GIVE YOU A PAIR OF YUKA'S PANTIES. ♡
IF I SEE THEM, I'LL WANT THEM...PLEASE PUT IT AWAY...
とりゃー
DUUUN
ARRRGH
FINE - I'LL GO GET YOURS TOMORROW.
REALLY - ?!

MAN...I KNOW I BOUGHT IT MYSELF SO IT'S STRANGE FOR ME TO SAY BUT -

GIRLS SURE DO LATCH ONTO THIS CREEPY-WEIRD KINDA STUFF...

WELL, WHY NOT?

?

OTHERWISE, HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO LATCH ONTO A MOUTHFUL OF MAN?

WHOA, *EXTREME ZOOM-OUT!*

ZOOM

51ひき

E.E.E.E.E.K.!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

OH, IT'S JUST AN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION!

NOOOOO!

OMG, I IMAGINED IT!!

I FIRST BEGAN WANTING TO PROTECT YUKA...

...LONG, LONG AGO.

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN CUTE AND KIND AND HARD-WORKING -

YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF STUDIES, OKAY? HARUHIKO-KUN!

HEEEEY, YUKA...

ZZZ...

...AND NOT ALL THERE.

O-OKAY.

I'LL TRY HARD TO TUTOR YOU, TOO!

...
...
...

HAAAH

HAAAH

OH, YUKA... ♡

I'LL PROTECT YOU...

CLING

ぎゅっ♡

...THAT SHE'S SO ACCEPTING OF EVERYTHING. NO ONE SHOULD CHANGE HER. I WON'T LET ANYONE TRY.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF HER NATURE...

YES, MA'AM! THANK YOU, MA'AM!

EW! WEIRDO!

HURRY AND GO GIVE HER THE STUFF!

THAT'S WHY I -

201. FUJIK

YES... WHO IS IT?

CLICK

OH... IT'S ME, HARUHIKO.

I'VE COME TO RETURN YOUR CONTAINERS. IS NOW A GOOD TIME?

SIGH ...

THIS IS KINDA NERVE-WRACKING ...

OH...YES. JUST A MOMENT.

CLICK

KCHAK

OH - GOOD EVENING, YUKA.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING...

GOOD EVENING, HARUHIKO-KUN.

SMILE

HOW'S YOUR HEALTH NOW? ARE YOU ALL BETTER?

...NEVER MIND THAT - WHAT ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT ME FOR?

I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU IF YOU'RE OKAY!

HUH ...?

OH... UH...

PANG

UM...TH-THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH ME...

OH...

YOU WERE HALF-ASLEEP EARLIER TODAY.

SOMETHING ABOUT NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP...

IT...IT'S NOT GOOD, IS IT? I'VE GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER...

OH... UM...

I'M SORRY... I GUESS I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION...

I MEAN... I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD...

WITH THE REMEDIAL LESSONS AND ALL.

HUH?

NO NO NO!

I'M NOT BLAMING YOU OR ANYTHING -

UM -

YES...FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER SCHOOL...

YOU ARE TEACHING THOSE, AREN'T YOU? REMEDIAL LESSONS...

UH...

?

...?

IN FACT, I'M STILL NOT ABLE TO TEACH WELL ENOUGH...

SO I FEEL BADLY TOWARD EVERYONE...

...
...
...

OH, I SEE...

OH -

HUH?

NO, IT'S NOT PUTTING A STRAIN ON ME-

WHAT?!

TRI-COLORED *ODANGO*...

HARUHIKO-KUN...

DO YOU LIKE *ODANGO*?

OH MY - WHAT AM I THINKING? I HAVEN'T MADE ANY TEA...

OH, PLEASE — EAT ALL YOU LIKE.

WOMEN... THEY JUST DON'T CONNECT...

THANKS...

TAP TAP

JUST A MINUTE, OKAY?

HUH?

WHAT? WAIT... YUKA?

WANT TO SHARE HALF, GYU-CHAN?

GYU

TELL ME - WHY AM I HERE EATING TRI-COLORED DANGO RIGHT NOW?

ALL OF YOU EXPERIENCED MEN OF THE WORLD OUT THERE -

WHY OUTSIDE ...?

HM?

OH... NOTHING.

SIGH...

...
...

I SUPPOSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO LET ME INSIDE HER HOUSE...

I'D LIKE TO THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF HER POSITION AS A TEACHER...

YUKA... WHY'D YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY...

AND... UM - WELL...

-≥GIGGLE≤-

SO YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, HARUHIKO-KUN?

HUH?

M-ME?

A LOOONG TIME AGO...

I USED TO TUTOR YOU...DO YOU REMEMBER?

AND ALWAYS, ON THE NEXT DAY, YOU'D GET A REALLY GOOD GRADE...

AND SAY THAT IT WAS ALL THANKS TO ME.

THAT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.

YOU MEAN IT'S BECAUSE OF ME ...?!

OF COURSE YOU DID WELL BECAUSE YOU TRIED HARD, BUT...

IT MADE ME THINK, "BEING A TEACHER IS NICE..."

Y...

DOOOOM

SIP—

I-I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED SO HARD...

RUSTLE...

OH... THAT'S RIGHT.

I CAME TO RETURN THESE CONTAINERS ...

mio_cafe

OH...YES.

...

...?

THE RED COMET... FROM GUNDAM?

AH...I SEE...

IT'S HARD TO ACKNOWLEDGE, BUT...ONE COMMITS SO MANY MISTAKES IN ONE'S YOUTH...

SLUMP...

IT'S NOT ANYTHING SPECIAL, BUT-

MAY I OPEN IT?

WHAT?

AND THIS... IS A THANK-YOU GIFT.

OH...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.

CRINKLE...

S-

SURE...

WHAT CAN IT BE...?

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

I'M TRUSTING YOU, LADIES ...!!

I-IT'LL BE OKAY... RIGHT, EUKANARIA? LADY STORE CLERK?

もちーん
MOCHIIN

...
...
...

GYU!

OH MY...

STARRRE...

URK...!

JOLT!

OH...UH...
Y-YUKA?

STARRRE...!!!

GYU GYU

...
...
...

EEP
?!

ビク
JUMP!

STARE...

YYYYEAH,
I DID...
UM...UHH...

あはっ
AHA
AHA

YOU
BOUGHT
THIS?
HARUHIKO-
KUN.

UH?!

YOU
SEE
...

AHA

GYU

TREMBLE
TREMBLE

あはっ

-:GIGGLE:-

IT'S *CUTE*...

THANK YOU, HARUHIKO-KUN.

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WOMEN MUCH, BUT -

I KNOW THAT I WANT TO PROTECT HER -

I...

I'M GLAD...

...
...
YUKA...

DON'T STRESS YOURSELF OUT TOO MUCH EITHER, OKAY?

SERI-OUSLY ...

GYUUU

H...

HEY - !! GIVE THAT BACK!!

DDDDDDDD

WHOA!

OH.

THWAP!!

GYUUU - - - - !!

MOCHI

!!

AND THAT'S THAT.

THE ODANGO ...

TAKE SOME HOME WITH YOU - !

DDD

OH...

HARUHIKO-KUN... WAIT...!

ARRRGH

おお

I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER DO SOMETHING FOR HER, TOO...

AS FOR THE OTHER ONE...

DUUUN

LOOK, HARUHIKOOOO --- AREN'T I GOOD?!

?

YOU...

YOU OVERDID IT...

YOU'LL GET NO DANGO!!

YEAH, YEAH - YOU'RE GREAT.

SO CLEAN UP THIS MESS!!

POUT-

TCH!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT...

WHERE'D YOU GET ALL THE PAPER FROM...OH!

YOU BETTER NOT HAVE DRAWN ON THE PAPER ON MY DESK, TOO!

WHEW!

I WOULDN'T DO THAT.

OH... GOOD.

THAT'S A BLUEPRINT FOR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

ACTUALLY, IT LOOKS MORE LIKE PLANS FOR SOME KIND OF WIRING...

AND THERE'RE ALL THESE OTHER WEIRD NUMBERS AND THINGS.

ELIKANARIA, COULD YOU OPEN UP THE WORKSHOP FOR ME?

IS IT FOR AN ENCHANTED TOOL?

HUH?

AND ALSO...

GIMME THAT STONE CONTAINING FULCANELLI, TOO.

WHAT FOR? ALL OF A SUDDEN...

NO...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, HARUHIKO?

YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON... DESTROYING IT...ARE YOU?

EH?! WHY WOULD I DO A THING LIKE THAT?!

OR RATHER -

IF I'D WANTED TO DO THAT, I WOULD HAVE DONE IT A LONG TIME AGO!!

I WOULDN'T BE PUTTING UP WITH YOUR CONSTANT COMEDY ROUTINE, U EITHER!

URK...

I ONLY NEED IT WHILE WE'RE IN THE WORKSHOP. I WON'T TAKE IT OUTSIDE.

IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO, I WONT FORCE YOU... BUT...

...TRUST ME. I WON'T DO YOU WRONG.

...

OKAY.

BUT ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR MR. MOCHITTOS...

I WANT LOTS OF THEM!

IS THAT SO...

エンチャント。27

enchant. 27

リペア

repair

ヒュ

WHOOOSH...

ヒュ

ヒュ

ヒュ

WHOOOSH...

ヒュ

-HUFF-
-CHUCKLE-

THUMP

YES...FLOWERS ARE MUCH BETTER IN REAL LIFE THAN IN REFERENCE BOOKS. ♡

OH!

OOOSH...

I'VE FOUND IT. ♡

CHUCKLE

CHUCKLE

AND HAVE YOU MADE INTO SOME MEDICINE. PLEASE DON'T WORRY.

CHUCKLE

SNIP

I SHALL BE TAKING YOUR BLOSSOM.

-GIGGLE-

AFTER I'M DONE...LET'S SEE - I WILL HAND YOU OVER TO DR. PARACELSUS...

NOW THEN...

SLIP

OH?

TOPPLE...

OH?

OH?

OH?

OH?

...AND -

YOU FELL OFF A CLIFF?

YES-

PLUMMET

AIIIIEE!

TAP

B-BUT I'M FINE NOW.

AND THE FLOWER - SEE? IT'S PERFECTLY -

TAP

HUH!

YES, THAT'S RIGHT! I - I REALIZED IT HALFWAY DOWN!

FLY NEXT TIME.

...

...

JUMP!

...

...

...

O-

U OHHHH

...

TH...THE FLOWER ~

SLAM!

SLIP

HNNNGH!

...

HMMM... SO THIS METHOD IS NO GOOD...

...URRGH ...

HMM... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

SIGH...

ROAAARRR...

HRRMMMMM---

MMMMMM---...

WHEWWW...

I SENSE A MASTERPIECE COMING ON...!!

SHH! DON'T TALK TO ME RIGHT NOW!

WHAT? COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE PAINTING THIS...?

DAAHHHHH!

WHAPPA

WHAPPA

WHAPPA

TAH! YAHH---!

BE QUIET! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?!!

GAH!

SLASH ---!!

SPECIAL TECH-NIQUE - BRUSH SLASH!!

I SAID, QUIT IT...

WIPE

WIPE

STOP USING PHRASES THAT SOUND VAGUELY CORRECT AT FIRST HEARING BUT ARE ACTUALLY WRONG...

...ALSO, QUIT WITH THE BRUSH!

GRIND GRIND GRIND GRIND

WHY DON'T YOU TRY ENRICHING YOUR SOUL, TOO?!

IT'S AUTUMN, HARUHIKO! THE ARTFUL SEASON!

GRIND GRIND GRIND GRIND GRIND

HM...?

I NEVER KNEW THAT BEFORE.

DRAWING PICTURES IS FUN!

WHEW!

TEE HEE -

LAVOIX WAS SAYING THAT DEMONS CAN'T UNDERSTAND MUSIC AND WHATNOT...

ISN'T THAT BECAUSE SHE'S ONLY BEEN AROUND HUMANS FOR JUST A SHORT TIME?

ART-RELATED STUFF...

COME TO THINK OF IT...YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS ACCEPTING STUFF LIKE THAT, DO YOU?

HUH? WHAT "STUFF LIKE THAT"?

I WAS TAUGHT A LOT OF THINGS...BY FULCANELLI.

...THAT HUMANS HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES... AND THAT THAT'S NOT A BAD THING.

COME ON, COME ON— LOOK AT MY WONDERFUL BOYFRIEND ~

OH! IF YOU WANT, WANNA "TRACE" MY MEMORY AGAIN?

WELL, ISN'T *HE* AN ENLIGHTENED GENTLEMAN...

...
...
...

GRINKLE...

HEY! YOU'RE ONLY 17, AREN'T YOU?!

I'LL PASS - I'VE GOT ENOUGH ADULT VIDEOS.

HMM... ABOUT THAT...

NEVER MIND THAT, HARUHIKO -

ARE YOU DONE WITH THE ENCHANTED TOOL YET? DOES IT LOOK LIKE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK WITH FULCANELLI?

I THOUGHT I COULD USE THE SAME SYSTEM I USED WITH NAVY AND THAT FLYING DRAGON, BUT...

I'VE TRIED THINKING UP LOTS OF IDEAS, BUT NONE OF THEM SEEM TO WORK.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CRYSTAL TYPES SEEM INORGANIC. THEY'RE BASICALLY DIFFERENT.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS.

I CAN'T SAY I UNDERSTAND IT FULLY MYSELF, BUT IT'S LIKE THEY'RE... COMPRESSED BY SOME KIND OF POWERFUL FORCE.

THE "PETRIFACTION"-TYPE STONES SEEM KINDA ORGANIC IN MATTER.

IT CAN'T BE HANDLED THE SAME WAY AS THE CROW AND THE DRAGON WERE.

THIS STONE CONTAINING FULCANELLI'S SOUL...

IS MORE LIKE THE CRYSTAL TYPE.

IN OTHER WORDS ...

!?OS

POUT —

FULCANELLI NO LONGER HAS A BODY.

URK...

WELL, OF COURSE -

ANYWAY...I'D BETTER HANDLE IT AS IF IT'S A SPECIAL TYPE OF DEMON-STONE.

I WASN'T ABLE TO EXTRACT FULCANELLI WITH THE SAME METHOD I USED FOR NAVY.

I'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW SYSTEM... AND NOT ONLY THAT...

GLANCE...

...I COULD NEVER TELL EUKANARIA THIS, BUT THIS STONE...IS ACTUALLY PRETTY FRAGILE.

OHHH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE!

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

BECAUSE OF THAT, I'M NOT REALLY SURE HOW MUCH PRESSURE I CAN USE ON IT.

IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, IT MIGHT -...

IT COULD SHATTER ...

IS IT THAT DIFFICULT TO GET FULCANELLI TO COME OUT?

UM...

HEY, HARUHIKO ...

UH... NEVER MIND...

I'M JUST TAKING IT OUT ON YOU... SORRY.

SIGH

"NO FUN"?! WHO DO YOU THINK I'M DOING ALL THIS FOR - ...?!

HEY!!

IT'S NO FUN!

BECAUSE FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT SIT THERE GRIMACING!

POUT —

WHIP

WELL, YEAH...

...BUT I'M NOT HOLDING THAT AGAINST YOU OR ANYTHING, HARUHIKO.

I BET FULCANELLI COULD COME UP WITH SOMETHING IN A SNAP...

LET'S LEAVE THAT METHOD OUT OF THE EQUATION...

U U

URRRGH...

BUT I ALREADY KNOW A WAY THAT I CAN SEE FULCANELLI - ♡

WELL, OF COURSE!

YOU WANT TO SEE FULCANELLI JUST AS BADLY, DON'T YOU?

YOU PROBABLY CAN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN COOPED UP THINKING TOO LONG.

OHHH, COME ON HARUHIKO - LET'S PLAY A LITTLE.

... ...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

LET'S TAKE A BREATHER! COME ON!

THE UPPER LEFT! UPPER LEFT! HURRY HURRY HURRY HURRY!

ひゃー

NOOOOOO!

あああ

HEY! WHERE'S A RED?

RIGHT FOOT, *RED!*

TWIRL

TWIRL

TWIRL

TWIRL

THEN FIND ONE YOURSELF! WHAT IS THIS ANYWAY?!

UPPER LEFT?! I CAN'T REACH UP THERE!

OHHH!

DARN IT, HARUHIKO! YOUR HEAD'S IN THE WAY!

WHOA! WHAT'S WITH THE SOFTNESS OF YOUR THIGH?! IT'S SO UNREAL!

おおおお

MRRGH...IT... WAS FUN, WASN'T IT - ?

EH? YOU MEAN THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR ***MY*** ENJOYMENT JUST NOW?

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S ***SUPPOSED*** TO BE HAPPY HERE!

WAIT... THIS ***ISN'T*** THE POINT!

WHICH PART? YOU MEAN THE BUTT-IN-MY-FACE?

MRRP

HUH

MRRRRGH...

I...I CAN'T REACH IT, HARUHIKO-KUN...

SHIVER

OF COURSE IF IT HAD BEEN WITH YUKA...OH WHAT FUN...

OH...I THINK I CAN USE THIS ♡

TH...THEN I'LL PRETEND TO BE YUKA FOR YOU!

THAT'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?

HUH!

HEY - I'M GONNA GO SEE YAMATO, SO OPEN IT UP FOR ME, WILL YOU?

ち

YAAAAY!

THE USUAL.

I'LL GO GET MY EXERCISE THERE.

HUH...? TO DO WHAT?

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE SUBJECTED TO THIS?

I HOPE YAMATO KILLS YOU! DON'T WORRY, I'LL COME GET YOUR BODY!

DUMMY!

NYAAAH!!

!!!!

BUT HAVE A CLEAN DEATH!

...OH, POO...

POUT

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO CHEER YOU UP...

...
...
...

THUMP

I'LL PROBABLY BE LATE, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UP FOR ME.

I ALREADY KNOW! DON'T TALK LIKE A HUSBAND!

HUS-

OH MAN...I SWEAR...

SHE TOTALLY DOESN'T SEE ME AS A MAN AT ALL...

IF I LOOK LIKE FULCANELLI, THEN...

...CAN'T SHE FEEL A BIT MORE...YOU KNOW... TOWARDS ME...?

SIGH...

SO DEPRESSING...

BUT I KNEW THAT...

...I SUPPOSE IT MEANS I'M NOT IN THE PICTURE FOR HER...

OH...
MERCURIO.

OH?

WELCOME, MR. HARUHIKO ♡

TAP TAP

I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.

OH!

OH, NO, NO -

I'M FINE. I JUST NEED TO BRING THEM TO THE WORKSHOP.

HUH? CARRYING BOOKS SOME-WHERE? I'LL TAKE THAT FOR YOU. WHERE DO THEY NEED TO GO?

SLAM

YIPE!

DON'T CRY, DON'T CRY - NO BIG DEAL.

URGH...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

UH...I'M SORRY...

IT'S NOT THAT I'M IN A FLURRY, BUT...I ALWAYS SEEM TO LOSE MY BALANCE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IN SUCH A FLURRY JUST TO GET ME SOME TEA.

OH...I SEE. HERE FOR YOUR REGULAR TRAINING REGIMEN? SUCH DEDICATION!

ぺこり

UM...IS YAMATO HERE?

BOW

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE SUCH A CLUMSY SIGHT.

BUT MR. YAMATO IS NOT IN RIGHT NOW.

IF YOU'RE NOT IN ANY HURRY, PLEASE WAIT INSIDE FOR HIM.

UH... THINK NOTHING OF IT...

T-TAKE CARE...

F-GH-

DON'T MIND ME...

I WILL GO PREPARE THAT TEA!

THEN I GUESS I WILL.

OH, GOOD. ♡

YOU MAY USE ANYTHING IN THE WORKSHOP AS YOU WISH.

...GUESS SHE LIKES TO DOTE ON PEOPLE.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T STOP HER, EITHER.

...JUST HELP HER CLEAN UP.

THUD

...HM?

JUST DON'T HURT YOURSELF...

...

...

...

CRASH!

OHH!

W-WAIT! FIRST, PLEASE HAND ME MY TEA!

キル JUMP!

CLINKITTY カタカタ CLINK CLINK...

OH...MR. HARUHIKO, THAT'S A -

WHAT'S THIS...

A FLOWER?

CLINK チャ

Y-YES...

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, MR. HARUHIKO.

WHEW ---.

ふぅー

YOU SEE, I'M JUST...NOT ABLE TO DO MORE THAN ONE THING AT A TIME.

AH... I SEE.

ARE YOU GOING TO START ON SOMETHING, THEN?

YES. ♡

MM?

I GATHERED IT AS A DESIGN REFERENCE FOR MY ENGRAVING.

UMM... OH, YES - THAT FLOWER...

OH... R-REALLY?

I'VE GOT SOMETHING I WANT TO WORK ON, TOO, SO I'LL JUST BORROW THE WORK-STATION FOR A BIT. DON'T MIND ME.

OH... NO, NO.

UH, BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE DROPPED IN, MR. HARUHIKO... I CAN GET AROUND TO IT LATER!

I'M KINDA HAVING TROUBLE WITH IT, SO I'M IN A BIND.

GLAK...

I'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO...

OH...

BUT MR. YAMATO WAS SAYING WHAT AN EXCELLENT STUDENT YOU ARE, MR. HARUHIKO.

WHAT? THAT YAMATO?!

BUT...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW FULCANELLI WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO MUCH MORE THAN ME IF HE WERE HERE...

OH!

YOU MUSTN'T, MR. HARUHIKO!

YOU ARE *YOU!*

...BUT TO RANK YOUR OWN SOUL LESS WORTHY - !

I SUGGESTED BEFORE THAT YOU SHOULD MAKE HIM YOUR ROLE MODEL -

WHA... ?!

JOLT ビク

THAT, YOU MUST NOT DO!

UH...!

はぁ HUFF

はぁ HUFF

HAH!

OH... UH... YEAH.

S-SORRY ABOUT THAT.

PARDON ME! I SPOKE OUT OF TURN...

ペコ BOW -!

O... OHHHHH!

UH...UM... WELL...

WHOA, FAST -!

...I GUESS IT WAS SORT OF NEEDLING ME AFTER ALL. I'M SORRY.

NO, REALLY... THANKS.

I DIDN'T THINK I WAS LETTING IT GET TO ME, BUT...

MR. HARUHIKO ...

THAT I'M UNABLE TO DO - IT JUST MADE ME JEALOUS, THAT'S ALL.

KNOWING THAT FULCANELLI COULD PROBABLY DO SOME-THING...

はぁ

sigh...

OH, MY!

DO THEY? THAT'S HORRIBLE!

NO...IT DOESN'T MATTER...

BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SAYS THINGS LIKE THAT TO ME, MERCURIO!

EVERYONE ELSE...THEY JUST GO ON AND ON ABOUT FULCANELLI.

I...

YOU'RE VERY TOLERANT AND GENEROUS... AND WONDERFUL.

I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH, MR. HARUHIKO ...

WHAT DID SHE SAY?! WHAT WAS IT SHE JUST SAID?!

HUH? WHAT?

HUH ...?

RUSH

OH!

HUH?

OH...

WHAT?

UMM...

OH...I - I WILL GET TO WORK ALSO.

I MUSTN'T GET IN YOUR WAY!

HUH...

.....

OH... YEAH...

THEN... ME, TOO...

YES. ♡

WHAAAT?!

WHSH

WHIRL

SHE CONFESSED? DID SHE JUST CONFESS HER LOVE TO ME?! SO SUDDENLY?!

OR DID SHE MEAN IT THE SAME WAY AS, "I LIKE CATS VERY MUCH"?!

WHIRL

WHIRL

I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT ABOUT BEING THE CONFESSOR, BUT NEVER ABOUT BEING THE ONE CONFESSED TO! WHOAAA...?!

WAIT... WHAT WHAT WHAT WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SO... SHE'S AN ENGRAVER ...

OH...

GLANCE

...
...

IT MUST BE DETAILED WORK...I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE OKAY? I HOPE SHE WON'T HURT HERSELF...

OH... THEY LOOK SO SOFT...

THAT WOULD BE ON ACCES-SORIES AND THINGS, HUH?

ENGRAVING ...

OH, THEY JIGGLED ...

SHE'S SO SERIOUS...

IT'S...I DUNNO...

...HARD TO IMAGINE SHE'S THE SAME PERSON THAT WAS FALLING OVER HERSELF BEFORE...

CLAK...

カラ。

REPENTING HIS MALENESS.

...WHAT AM I THINKING ...?

SELF-INFLICTED!

...

...?

?

?

WHOAAAA, SO JIGGLY ...!

JUMP

ピョン

SHAKE

ぷる

SHAKE

ぷる

JIGGLE

ぷる3

...

...

...

CLICK

カチカチ

CLICK

OH?

PARDON ME... UM...

COULD I... TROUBLE YOU FOR A MOMENT?

OH...H... HUH? S-SURE, WHAT IS IT?!

J-JOLT!

MR. HARU-HIKO.

Y-YES?!

IT WAS WORKING JUST A WHILE AGO, BUT...

OH - YES.

IS THIS THE MAIN PART?

OH...YEAH, SURE.

MY ENGRAVING TOOL ISN'T WORKING.

COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT IT FOR ME?

CLAK

WHAT IS IT YOU ARE WORKING ON, MR. HARUHIKO?

HM?

NAH, NO PROBLEM.

I...I AM SO SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU...

I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR OWN WORK TO DO...

CHAK

I'M TRYING TO MAKE AN ENCHANTED ITEM THAT WILL LET ME TALK TO SOMEONE WHOSE ONLY REMNANT IS HIS SOUL.

I'M...TRYING TO THINK UP A WAY TO TALK TO FULCANELLI.

WITH SIR FULCANELLI?

YES... YOU'RE RIGHT...

AND TO USE A HUMAN'S BODY... COMPATIBILITY IS ALSO NECESSARY...

IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO JUST PUT HIS SOUL INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY, BUT...

...THAT METHOD IS A LITTLE TOO INVASIVE TO THAT "SOMEONE ELSE"'S RIGHTS, YOU KNOW?

HAHA...

BUT EUKANARIA REALLY WANTS TO SEE HIM...

...SO I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER SAKE, TOO.

IT WAS EASY —

THE WIRING IN THE PLUG HAD A FAULTY CONNECTION, THAT'S ALL.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE, LET ME KNOW.

REALLY?

OH! なる

HERE YOU GO - ALL FIXED.

THAT WAS FAST!

MR. HARUHIKO...

KCHAK カチャ

YO.

SO YOU'RE HERE, HARUHIKO.

OH - YAMATO!

SLURRP

OH! THAT'S RIGHT - LEMME FINISH MY TEA!

U... UM...!

M- MR. HARUHIKO!

HMPH... HURRY UP AND GET READY.

I'VE BEEN WAITING -

STOMP

STOMP

I'M REALLY GONNA PUT THE SMACKDOWN ON YOU TODAY.

WHA- AAT- ?

...
...
...

HUH? DID I NOT REPAIR IT PROPERLY?

HM? WHAT'S WRONG, MERCURIO?

UM... SOME DAY...

...COULD YOU...REPAIR ME AS WELL...?!

...

...WHAT?

YIKES!

DARN... I HAVE TO GO!

HEY, HARUHIKO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY UP!!

JUMP!

...HUH?

WHAT?

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY -

...REPAIR?

--- REPAIR WHAT?

S-SORRY, UM... UHH...

COME ON - !!

O - OKAY, OKAY!

ARRRGH!

CHATTER

CHATTER

...

REPAIR...

...WHAT - LIKE, HER PERSONALITY OR SOME-THING?

NAH, CAN'T BE...IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S MY GIRLFRIEND OR ANYTHING...

THAT CAN'T BE IT...MERCURIO HAS A GREAT PERSONALITY ALREADY...

NO, WAIT - MAYBE SHE WANTS ME TO HELP HER TO STOP FALLING OVER ALL THE TIME? SOME KIND OF TRAINING?

SNAP!

YO, YO, HARUHIKO! MORNING!

EH... MORNIN'...

MORNING!

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

SHUT UP!

WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A GIRLFRIEND...

I'M JUST EXPERIENCING FIRST-HAND HOW WOMEN JUST DON'T SEEM TO CONNECT...

AND WHO ARE *YOU* TO EXPOUND UPON A WOMAN'S WAYS?

IT'S A ROUTINE WITH YOU —

WHAT? SLEEPLESS AGAIN?

NEVER MIND THAT - HERE, HARUHIKO!

SLIP

EH? WHAT'S THIS?

SLEEPLESS-NESS...AND MUSCLE ACHE...

IT'S FOR THE CULTURAL FAIR. WRITE IN A SUGGESTION FOR WHAT OUR CLASS SHOULD DO.

HUH...? THE CULTURAL FAIR...?

WHAAAT?! WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?!

WHAT-EVER IT TURNS OUT TO BE -

I'LL BE RELYING ON YOU FOR YOUR HELP AGAIN THIS YEAR. ♡

BUT I'M SO BUSY ALREADY - !

NOOOO!

WH -? WHY?

I'M GIVING THOSE OUT TO EVERY-BODY. ♡

I'M ON THE EVENTS COMMITTEE ♡

エンチャント

enchant.28

FIRST LOVE

はつこい

KA-THUD!

BONK

OW!

ARRRRGHH!!

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY MORE IDEAS!

...THERE'S NOTHING WITH ANY DIRECT BEARING TO BE OF HELP...

FLAP

I'VE LOOKED THROUGH FULCANELLI'S BLUEPRINTS, BUT...

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

DAMN... THERE AREN'T ANY GOOD METHODS...

MRRGH...

LIMM... LIMM...

I DON'T SUPPOSE ANYONE WOULD MAKE AN ENCHANTED ITEM BEFOREHAND THAT COULD CALL THEMSELVES BACK FROM THEIR OWN DEATH...

BUT THEN AGAIN ...

NO, NO, NO...

WAIT...MAYBE I'M RELYING TOO MUCH ON FULCANELLI'S IDEAS...

---UGH... THIS IS SO ANNOYING ...

WAS I ALWAYS THIS NO-GOOD...?

THAT'S RIGHT.

...INSTEAD OF JUST FOCUSING ON REVAMPING AN EXISTING PLAN...

WHAT IF I IGNORE ANY ITEMS OR PLANS MADE BY FULCANELLI ALTOGETHER...

IN ORDER TO THINK UP A NEW SYSTEM...

THINK OF THE SOUL AS "DATA"...

HARDWARE TO ANALYZE, SOFTWARE FOR CONVERSION... A DEVICE DRIVER...AT ANY RATE, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO IT ALL.

...AND START FROM SCRATCH... WITH MODERN IDEAS I'M MORE FAMILIAR WITH?

STUMBLE...

はぁ...

THE CULTURAL FAIR'S COMING UP, TOO...

I'M GONNA BE SWAMPED WITH STUFF AGAIN...

OH, MAN... I'M THIS CLOSE TO GIVING UP...

SIGH...

よた...

...

...

BUT BEFORE THAT...

GRRRON

UGH...I'LL BET MOTOKI WILL BADGER ME ABOUT IT...

MAYBE I'LL JUST SAY NO...

I SUPPOSE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HELP OUT...

I'M HUNGRY...

STOMP STOMP STOMP

HARUHIKO - !

HELP ME, YUKA!

WAAAAH!

ARRRGH!

AND I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE SO EASY TO GET TO TALK TO FULCANELLI!

EH?!

?!?!

NOT YOU.

SLUMP

BAM

HEY HEY - AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?

YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU? YOU ARE!

...

MOCHI

?

GO ON, GO ON! HURRY!

?

JUST TRY THIS!

I TRIED MAKING AN ODANGO... SHAPED LIKE MR. MOCHITTO. ♡

YEAH...I WON'T QUESTION WHAT THIS THING IS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT ANYMORE...

FLOP

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T DRAW THE FACE WITH MAGIC MARKER...IT'S INEDIBLE.

SHE JUST GUESSED AT HOW TO MAKE IT...

...
...
...

I THOUGHT YOU COULD COOK.

FINE. BRING ME SOME SOY SAUCE AND MAYONNAISE.

FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, I'M GUESSING IT'S JUST FLOUR AND WATER...

COME ON - *EAT IT!*

OR CURRY POWDER... WHATEVER. THIS IS A BATTLEFIELD AFTER ALL.

THWAP

USE *RICE FLOUR!!* DON'T JUST GUESS HOW TO MAKE IT!

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE DANGO...I KNOW THE SHAPE IS FUNNY, BUT...

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF ITS SHAPE!!

HERE'S A HOME EC. TEXTBOOK, JUST FOR YOU!

(JR. HIGH)

TECHNIQUES FOR HOME EC. 3

JUST EAT IT THE WAY IT IS!

YEAH, YEAH - WHEN IT'S A GREEN MOON, YOU EAT THREE...

YOU HAVE A TRADITION OF EATING DANGO WHILE LOOKING AT THE MOON, RIGHT? IT SAID SO ON THE TV.

EATING TEN WILL BRING YOU HAPPINESS...

OH MAN, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?

HMM! AHH! HO-HOH!

HM ふん ふん HM

3枝

WHAAAAT?! ARRRGH!

STOP INCREASING MY WORK-LOAD ---!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

THE SWITCH FOR THE HOT PLATE IS STUCK IN THE PUSHED-IN POSITION AND WON'T COME BACK OUT. FIX IT FOR ME -

DING

DONG...

GRRR...

HRRMM...

HOW OVER-WHELMING... WHAT TO DO ...?

MURMUR

MURMUR...

2-A

THIS IS A SERIOUS PREDICAMENT HERE...

TOTALLY IGNORING ME?!

NOOO!! COME ONNN!! ASK ME WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!!

OH - RIGHT.

WELL THEN, I'M HEADING HOME. SEE YA, OKADA.

CLATTER

A JOINT LOCK...

EHHH~?

TRY FOSTERING YOUR MALE FRIENDSHIPS TOO FOR ONCE, WHY DON'T YOU?!

YOU ALWAYS WANT TO HURRY STRAIGHT BACK TO MISS EUKANARIA...

CRIK

CRAK ~

CRAK

OW OW OW OW OW!

THAT'S NOT WHY -

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED, DAMMIT!

DRAG ~

DUDE...JUST WHEN SOMEONE IS TRYING SO HARD TO INFLAME YOUR CURIOSITY...

I TALLIED UP ALL THE SUGGES-TIONS...

...AND DISCOVERED THAT ALMOST EVERYONE WANTS TO PUT UP SOME KIND OF SHOP!

SO I'M JUST AN EXPOSITORY CHARACTER...

ZING

HUH...THESE ARE OUR CLASS SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CULTURAL FAIR.

WHAT'S OVER-WHELMING?

FLAP

OOH, HERE IT COMES! THANKS FOR THE EXPOSITION, MR. MIYAKE!

DO IT AT HOME!!

SO WHAT'S YOUR SUGGES-TION THEN, MOTOKI?

NOT YOU TOO, HARUHIKO !!

WHERE'S THE FUN IN BAKING UP TAKOYAKI FOR SALE AT THE CULTURAL FAIR?!

THAT WAS MY SUGGES-TION, TOO.

THE SHOP SUGGES-TION'S FINE WITH ME -

WHAP

VROOOM

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "RIGHT?" IDIOT! THINK BACK!

THINK BACK AT HOW MUCH WE WERE YELLED AT AFTERWARDS!

SCREEECH

AND WHAT'S WITH THE CLICHE PROMONTORY RACE THEME?!!

SOMETHING LIKE THAT! RIGHT, HARUHIKO?!

...LAST YEAR'S GO-CART RACE ON THE ATHLETIC FIELD! THAT WAS AWESOME.

MAN, THIS IS JUST WHAT I EXPECTED... SO ANYWAY - !

BUT THAT'S NOT ROCK N'ROLL!

BEFORE THAT, FIRST YOU'D BETTER WORRY ABOUT IMPROVING YOUR TEST SCORES SO YOU CAN ADVANCE A GRADE.

GRADUATE FROM THIS OPPRES-SION-!!

OKAY, WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE LEAV-...

I'LL DO MY LITTLE PART TO ASSIST WHERE I'M ABLE - LIKE HELPING BUILD THE BIG PROPS AND STUFF. ♡

WHAP

NOOO! WAIT, HARUHIKO!

I'M BUSY WITH MY OWN STUFF, SO THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING LIKE I DID LAST YEAR!

THIS YEAR, I BEG OFF FROM ANY AND EVERY COMMITMENT!

WHAAAT?! AREN'T YOU BEING COLD, BRO ---?!

WHAP

FINE, FINE - WE'LL DO THE SHOP THING.

ON THAT NOTE ...

WHAT IS IT?!

IF THAT'S THE RESULT THAT CAME UP IN THE VOTE, THEN ABIDE BY IT!

WELCOME~

I REALLY WANT TO HAVE A PRETTY OLDER LADY BE OUR WAITRESS. ♡ ♡

URRGH...I HATE THAT KIND OF BASE, SIMPLISTIC THINKING.

HEY! YOU FOOL! YOUR DIALOG BUBBLE'S IN THE WAY!)

HUH? WHY THE CHINESE OUTFIT?

:HUFF: :HUFF:

...COULD YOU ASK MISS EUKANARIA TO THE SCHOOL FAIR?

WHAT ?!

ALREADY...

I JUST WANT TO GO HOME...

WAAAH

WAAAH

...MOTOKI-KUN REALLY LIKES FESTIVAL-TYPE EVENTS, DOESN'T HE?

CHUCKLE

NOOO -! I WANT TO DO SOMETHING THAT'S DIFFERENT -!

FLAIL

FLAIL

WHAT'S THE POINT OF EMPLOYING SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL FOR THE SCHOOL CULTURAL FAIR?

ARE YOU STUPID?

GGGRRR...

WHOA!

Y-YUKA-CHAN!

YUKA!

IT'S SO LIVELY IN HERE.

MOTOKI-KUN, MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU A MOMENT?

COULD IT BE YOU'RE WILLING TO DROP MY FAILING CHEMISTRY GRADE?

A-AS LONG AS YOU SHOW UP FOR YOUR EXTRACUR-RICULAR REVIEW SESSIONS...

OH...

WHA-HOO!

YES, YES - YOU RANG? HOW MAY I HELP YOU, TEACHER?

AAGH!

HUUHH? YOU CAME TO SEE MOTOKI?!

GRR...DAMN! SAYING IT SO EASILY...

OH, OF COURSE, OF COURSE! 'CUZ I JUST LOVE YOU, MISS YUKA.

U... UHH...

NICE ONE! O-HOLY OKADA!

WHA - ?!

TEACHER, MOTOKI HERE IS PLANNING ON RUNNING A SMUT SHOP FOR THE CULTURAL FAIR.

I'M REPORTING HIM.

JOLT!

HUH...? S-SMUT SHOP...?

SERVES YOU RIGHT!!

M-MOTOKI-KUN...I DON'T THINK THAT'S A - ...

W-WHOA, WHOA ---

I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TASTELESS LIKE THAT! COME ON!

ACTUALLY, MOTOKI-KUN - ABOUT THE CLASS ACTIVITY FOR THE SCHOOL FAIR...

I KNOW... I'M SORRY.

-:CHUCKLE:-... I SAW THAT LAST YEAR, TOO, YOU KNOW.

...THE OTHER TEACHERS HAVE ASKED THAT YOU NOT CAUSE A DISTURBANCE LIKE YOU DID LAST YEAR.

HUH?! WHAT, ARE THEY STILL MAD ABOUT THAT?!

THAT'S RIGHT... BUT LAST YEAR I ATTENDED AS A REGULAR VISITOR - I'M AN ALUMNI, AFTER ALL.

HUH? BUT YUKA-CHAN...

YOU ONLY BECAME A TEACHER HERE THIS YEAR, RIGHT?

...
...
...

I KNOOOW, RIGHT?!

MMPH...

IF IT WERE ONLY UP TO ME...

I'D ACTUALLY PREFER THAT YOU PUT JUST AS MUCH ENERGY IN YOUR PRESENTATION THIS YEAR...

OH...

WHAP

GOOD-BYE, MISS FUJIKAWA - ...

OHHH NO YOU DON'T - WAIT WAIT WAIT!

WHAT'S WRONG, HARUHIKO?

UH... NOTHIN'. I'LL BE HEADING HOME NOW.

DAAAH!!

WILL YOU JUST LET ME GO HOME?!!

WILL YOU JUST LOOK AT THIS KID? HE'S SO GRUMPY!

HEY, YUKA-CHAN - DID YOU KNOW THAT LAST YEAR'S EVENT WAS THE WORK OF HARUHIKO FOR THE MOST PART? ISN'T HE GREAT?

DON'T TELL HER, YOU IDIOT!!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER?!

...
...
...

NOW, NOW - !

SO IT WAS YOUR WORK AFTER ALL, HARUHIKO-KUN... YOU REALLY ARE GREAT.

YES...

HE IS - RIGHT? RIGHT?!

HA HA...

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REPEAT SOMETHING LIKE LAST YEAR, BUT...I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HELPING YOU ALL OUT FOR THIS YEAR'S FAIR.

NO, NO - WE WON'T BE SO RECK-LESS AGAIN.

AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT IMMATURE LITTLE KIDS ANYMORE. WE'LL GO WITH THE SHOP IDEA. ♡

GOOD, GOOD.

BY THE WAY...YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO HELP US OUT, TEACHER?

SURE.

HELP!

STUMBLE

ズル

IL

WELCOME HOME, MASTER—

THEN PLEASE - COME AND BE OUR WAITRESS!

SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

N...NO, IT'S OKAY.

WELL, DO YOUR BEST. IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, LET ME KNOW.

YOU GOT IT - !

S - SORRY ABOUT HIM - HE'S SUCH AN IDIOT!!

TO TOKYO BAY

AHAHA!

I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOU'LL HAVE TO USE A YOUNGER PERSON...

WHAT ARE YOU, SOME LITTLE KID?

AND JUST 'CUZ I SPOKE A LITTLE FAMILIARLY WITH YUKA-CHAN, YOU GET ALL JEALOUS.

MRRGH!

WHA-...! THAT'S NOT THE REASON! IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEPT BLABBING ON AND ON...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU... SUGGESTING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

CLUNK

TO TOKYO BAY

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S FOR YOUR SAKE!

I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT YOU CAN MAKE STUFF AND DO THINGS, YOU KNOW?

CUT IT OUT, MOTOKI.

YOU COULD AT LEAST TRY TO IMPRESS HER!

WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU LIKE YUKA-CHAN, DON'T YOU?!

IT SEEMS THE TEACHER HAS NEVER BEEN GOOD WITH MACHINES -

HUH?! WHAT'S THAT?!

ISN'T THIS A CHANCE TO HAVE YUKA-CHAN SEE YOUR GOOD SIDE?

IT DOESN'T MATTER - HARUHIKO STARTED ALL THAT FOR MISS FUJIKAWA'S SAKE TO BEGIN WITH.

THEN THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON, ISN'T IT?!

OKAY, OKAY - JUST STOP ALREADY. *I GOT IT, I GOT IT!*

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO HUNG UP ON HER, OR WHY YOU DON'T EVEN TELL HER WHEN YOU'RE DOING EVERYTHING FOR HER SAKE.

I MEAN, YEAH, YUKA-CHAN IS A HOTTIE BUT...

I DON'T GET YOU ...

IF I DON'T HURRY, YAMATO WILL RIP ME A NEW -

WHAP

I'LL JUST BE HEADING HOME NOW. ♡

I *SAAAAID* WAIT, MR. HARUHIKO - !

NEVER MIND, OKADA. LET IT GO.

...
...
...

COME ON - LET'S THINK UP IDEAS TOGETHER!

THE OTHERS IN CLASS NEVER COME UP WITH ANY GREAT STUFF, ANYWAY.

JUST HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO REPEAT THIS?!

I'LL DIE IF I GET HIT BY ONE!!

NOOOO!

I'LL MAKE YOU A BAKING MACHINE THAT CAN FIRE OFF 62 PER SECOND!

TAKOYAKI IS FINE!

ooo

THUD

WHOA!

YIPE?!

SLIP

SEARCH

SEARCH

?

?

TAP

TAP

THERE'S AN... UNUSUAL... PERSON...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL I'VE SEEN SOMEONE TRIP IN THE HALLWAY...

HEY!

DON'T JUST AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME ANYONE UNUSUAL IS CONNECTED TO ME!

OH!

HUH? WHAT? DID YOU SEE SOMEONE?

Y-?

YES, THANK YOU!!

A-ARE YOU OKAY...?

HARUHIKO...

I HAVE A FEELING... ISN'T THAT AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS?

SQUEEEEZE...

JRRRGH

MR. HARUHIKO'S VOICE...

NO...!

STAGGER...

HUH...?

OH!

MERCURIO!

AH!

MR. HARUHIKO!

H-HEY...

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU HERE AT MY SCHOOL?!

OH...I'M SO GLAD I FINALLY FOUND YOU...

O-OH...IS THAT SO...?

HUH...?

GRIN

GRIN

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE... ♡

MR. YAMATO WILL BE AWAY TODAY AND TOMORROW - SO YOUR TRAINING IS POSTPONED.

HUH? WHAT? WHAT? WHO'S HERE?

POP

ひょい

TH...TH-THERE IS ONE MORE THING...

OH!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...

I-IS THAT ALL? THAT YOU CAME HERE FOR?

ひょい

JUMP!

UMM...OH...P-PLEASE JUST HOLD ON ONE MOMENT...

I DON'T KNOW...A FRIEND OF HARUHIKO'S, I GUESS?

WHAAAT? BUT THAT'S A WOMAN! HOW COME HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO ALWAYS GET SO MANY -

UMM... UMM...

MOTOKI?

UH...IT'S ALRIGHT, MERCURIO...

OHHH, I KNOW I PUT IT IN HERE...

O-ONE MOMENT, PLEASE...I'M SO SORRY...

HEY, MOTOKI...

?

TAKE YOUR TIME.

RUMMAGE

RUMMAGE

OH! I - I FOUND IT!

THIS...I WANTED TO GIVE THIS TO YOU, MR. HARUHIKO...

HUH?

I MADE IT IN QUITE A HURRY SO IT MAY SEEM A TRIFLE ODD, BUT...

UM...YOU SEEMED TO BE SO BUSY LATELY, MR. HARUHIKO...

FLING FLING

WHAT IS IT? CAN I OPEN IT?

OH! NO!

THAT WOULD BE TOO EMBARRASSING... PLEASE WAIT UNTIL LATER!

OHHH!

HUH...? OH, THEN -

YOU MEAN THIS IS AN ENCHANTED TOOL THAT YOU ENGRAVED, MERCURIO?

I JUST WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT COULD HELP TO EASE YOUR SOUL...

AND I MADE A TINY LITTLE ENCHANTMENT OVER IT FOR YOU...

AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY AN ENGRAVER...IT CAN HARDLY BE COMPARED TO SOMETHING YOU'D HAVE CONSTRUCTED, MR. HARUHIKO...

OH... UM...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING AS GREAT AS AN ENCHANTED TOOL...

U-URRGH!

I MUST REALLY BE LOOKING STRESSED...

BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M EVEN WORRYING YOU, MERCURIO.

THANK YOU...FOR TAKING ALL THIS TROUBLE...

OH...NOT AT ALL...

OH, NO NO NO!

90 BOW

PARDON ME FOR HAVING DROPPED IN ON YOU SO UNEXPECTEDLY.

UH...NO PROBLEM.

HARUHIKO.

OH... UH...

OOH, SHE'S PRETTY!

ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS, MR. HARUHIKO?

POP

WHO IS THAT?

THAT SOUNDS STRANGE!

HUH?

OH?

NO NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

?

BOW

MY NAME IS MERCURIO.

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF MR. HARUHIKO...

S-SHE'S A GOOD PERSON, THOUGH...

UH... WHAT CAN I SAY...?

SO, SHE'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS AFTER ALL.

UH...IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE HARUHIKO'S PARENTS OR ANYTHING...

HUH?!

BOW

MR. HARUHIKO IS ALWAYS TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME...?

HEY, HARUHIKO -

IS SHE THE SAME AS EUKANARIA...? A DEMON?

IS IT OKAY IF I JUST ASSUME THAT OF ALL YOUR PRETTY ACQUAINTANCES FROM NOW ON?

OOOH, MR. HARUHIKO'S FRIENDS ~ YAAY ~

HUH?

NO - NO, SHE ISN'T.

OH...BUT WAIT A SEC...

I THINK SHE'S A NORMAL HUMAN...

MERCURIO SAID SHE'S AN "ENCHANTER" WHO DOES ENGRAVING, SO...

A NORMAL HUMAN...? WOULD A NORMAL HUMAN...

...ASK A STRANGER SOMETHING LIKE THAT...? IN THOSE WORDS?

SOME DAY - COULD YOU... REPAIR ME AS WELL...?!

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, OR -

I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER TO ASK HER ABOUT THAT SOMETIME...

HUH? WHY DO YOU ASK, OKADA?

ぼっ

STARE...

HUH? MOTOKI?

OH-OH...

MOTO-

...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH...

SEE YOU AGAIN, MR. HARUHIKO -

ぱたぱたぱたぱた

I'VE DISCOVERED A MAN IN LOVE.

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE WAY I MUST HAVE LOOKED TO OTHERS ALL THIS TIME...

CLATTER...

OHHH, LOOK HARUHIKO -

THE MOON IS SO PRETTY!

HMM... YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY, YOU KNOW THAT?

...AND ANOTHER THING -

...SORRY I'VE BEEN SO CREEPY-LOOKING, MISS EUKANARIA ...

ずーーん DOOOOM

I REPENT!!

HUH?!!

UH... WELL...

HE JUST FOLLOWED ME HOME ON HIS OWN, BUT...

SIGH

THAT'S MOTOKI, ISN'T IT? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE? DID YOU FIND HIM ON THE STREET SOMEWHERE?

YES?!!

JUMP!

THERE'S SOME-THING I WANNA ASK YOU...

...MR. HARU-HIKO.

HERE IT COMES!!

WHAT TO DO...? HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS THE WHOLE TIME...

I'VE NEVER SEEN MOTOKI LIKE THIS. I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT...

MISS MERCURIO... WHERE IS SHE NOW...?

OH...UHH... P-PROBABLY BACK AT WORK, I THINK...

SHE ENGRAVES... UMM...SO I THINK SHE DESIGNS AND WORKS WITH ARTISTIC ORNAMENTS.

YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT...

ORNAMENTS... I SEE...

YEAH...IT SUITS HER...

NOT THAT WELL. I'VE HARDLY EVER MET HER.

COULD IT BE...YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH MERCURIO, MOTOKI?

WHAT? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MERCURIO?

OH OH OH OH!

DO YOU KNOW HER, TOO?!

UH...HE WAS BORN IN MON-NAKA, YOU SEE. HE'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT...

...?!

キャー EEEEK

AAAAH!

DON'T SAY IT SO LIGHTLY LIKE THAT, MISS!

HE'S FLUSTERED RIGHT NOW.

WHUMP

GAH!

MOTOKI, PLEASE - CUT IT OUT! I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH YOU ANYMORE!!

HUMMINA もや HUMMINA もや

OHHH... DON'T SAY "TUSH" -

NNNOW ALL I CAN IMAGINE IS ***MMMISS*** MERCURIO'S TUSH...

OHHH, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL, MOTOKI -

USUALLY YOU'D CALL ME "BEAUTIFUL LADY" AND CHASE AFTER MY TUSH OR SOMETHING. ♡

YIKES!

EW

TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE

WHAT A PAIN...

U

YIKES...

T-TO BE HONEST WITH YOU...

IT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO CONSIDERATE TOWARDS ME.

OH! N-NOT THAT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE CUTE TOO, MISS ELIKANARIA!

U U

YES, MA'AM!! THANK YOU, MA'AM!!

...

...

...

...I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE AS CUTE AS HER BEFORE...

I'M HOOKED... SHE'S GREAT...

SHE'S SO CUTE...AND POLITE...AND OUTGOING...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT... UM...

OH...SORRY - IT'S JUST THAT I KNOW HOW YOU NORMALLY ARE, YOU KNOW...?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!

WHY?!

...MOTOKI.

ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS?

YEAH, I KNOW I'M ALWAYS BEEN JOKING AROUND...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

AH...I SEE...

WHAT?!

I APOLOGIZE, HARUHIKO!

...FOR SAYING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT HOW YOU FELT OR YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD YUKA-CHAN!

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE STRANGE FOR BEING SO FIXATED ON YUKA-CHAN.

...BUT I WAS WRONG...THIS FEELING IS - I DUNNO HOW TO...OHHH!

MOTOKI...

CLAMP!

MOTOKI-!!

HARUHIKO...!!

HARUHIKO-!!!

SOB

HARUHIKO...! FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE...

IT'S...KINDA NICE, HUH!!

CHERRY-BOYS SURE HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS...

MUNCH もぐ

WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER—!!

OHHH...

SHE'S GOTTEN BETTER ALREADY...

WOW... SO IT'S MERCURIO, OF ALL PEOPLE...

LOOK AT THE MOON AND HAVE SOME DANGO, YOU YOUNGSTERS.

SO, ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?

SHOVE

ずずず!!

OOH! THANKS, MISS!!

IT'S NOT EVEN THE HARVEST MOON...

BUT HOW DOES MOTOKI KNOW MERCURIO, ANYWAY?

SHE CAME TO SCHOOL TODAY...TO TELL ME THAT YAMATO WILL BE OUT...

HUH?

JUST FOR THAT?

UH... NO...

THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE...OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

I GATHER IT'S SOMETHING SHE ENCHANTED. I HAVEN'T LOOKED AT IT YET, BUT...

...IT'S IN A SMALL BAG...COULD IT BE AN ACCESSORY OR SOMETHING?

...DON'T MENTION THIS TO MOTOKI, BUT -

SHE GAVE ME SOMETHING.

MISS MERCURIO...

"SOME-THING"?

...
...
...

ENCHANTED ?

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW MOTOKI FEELS. I LIKE HOW YOU GET THE FEELING THAT SHE'S ALWAYS TRYING SO HARD -...

Y'KNOW... ABOUT MERCURIO - IT'S TRUE... SHE REALLY IS CUTE.

OOOOH - SO ARE YOU PLANNING ON GIVING UP YUKA, THEN?

NO!!

NO NO NO!

PFFT! SO ENERGETIC — ♡

FLING

ふぃん

FLING

FLING

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...IT'S JUST MY HONEST OPINION!

HMMM...

HEY, HARUHIKO?

WHAT?

AS FAR AS I CAN RECALL, I DON'T REMEMBER THAT GIRL EVER BEING ABLE TO ENCHANT - JUST ENGRAVE.

WHICH MER DID YOU MEET? IT'S THE REALLY CUTE ONE, RIGHT?

UH-UH.

THERE'S ONLY ONE...BUT I JUST WONDERED WHICH CAME TO THE "SURFACE"...

HM?

HUH?

WHAT...? "WHICH MER"...?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...? YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE THAN ONE?!

THERE ARE TWO PERSONAS INSIDE MERCURIO.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT...

IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE OTHER ONE YET, THEN MAYBE SHE'S FINALLY STABILIZED?

JUST A MINUTE... ISN'T SHE AN ENCHANTER...?

IF IT'S THE CUTE ONE YOU MEAN, THAT'S THE DEMON - A DEMON WHO HAS HARDLY ANY POWER.

WH...

WHAT ...?!

IT'S THE OTHER ONE THAT'S THE ENCHANTER.

...ALTHOUGH YAMATO AND HILBRECHT SEEM TO MAKE IT A POINT NOT TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE TWO...

HUFF

HUFF

GASP

HUFF

UGH ...

URRGH ...

AAH... NGH!

DUH!

CRACKLE

AAAGH...!

AAAHHH ...

N-NO MORE ...!

U...GH...

NO MORE... NO MORE OF THIS...

LET ME KNOW.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE,

HUFF

HUFF

MR. HARUHIKO ...!

PLEASE... HELP ME...!

MR. HARUHIKO ...!!

MR. HARUHI- ...

-KO...!

G...

...HA...

OF COURSE HE ISN'T GOING TO COME...

MY VOICE... ISN'T REACHING HIM...

ENCHANTER 7 END

IDLE CHATTER ½

UHH? I'M 17, SHE'S 23 - SO 6 YEARS?
HOW MANY YEARS OLD ARE YOU AND YUKA APART?
TOKYO TOWER
WELL, THE LONGER THIS SERIES RUNS FOR, THE FURTHER AWAY I'LL GET FROM THAT, BUT...YEAH, FOR NOW.
SO THAT'S 1988 IN WESTERN YEARS?
IF YOU'RE 17, THAT MEANS YOU WERE BORN IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE HEISEI ERA!
BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.
BUT WHO CARES!! A SIX-YEAR DIFFER-ENCE IS NOTHING!!
IF YOU FACTOR IN AVERAGE LIFE EXPECT-ANCY AND AGES OF PEAK SEXUAL PER-FORMANCE, A DIFFERENCE LIKE THAT IS JUST RIGHT!
AHAHAHAHAHAHA
GAH! I SENSE SOME KIND OF WALL?!
BORN IN SHOWA ERA YEAR 57
HARUHIKO-KUN...SO YOU WERE BORN IN THE HEISEI ERA...
DOOOM
LET'S TRY AND KEEP THIS SERIES GOING UNTIL YUKA'S YEAR OF BIRTH ENTERS THE HEISEI ERA, TOO!
EEP!

YOU MEAN FOR SIX YEARS?

IDLE CHATTER THEATER

FULL-SIZE, FOR ONCE!

HUH? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD COOK.

GREEN ONION!

TODAY, SINCE I WOKE UP EARLY -

I THOUGHT I'D MAKE MY OWN LUNCH FOR SCHOOL.

FOR MY OWN HEALTH ♡

PAFU-PAFU

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE ARE YOUR PAREN-?

DON'T ASK ME STUFF THAT PERTAINS TO THE STORY SET-UP!

THESE DAYS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE MUST FEND FOR THEMSELVES!

IS THAT THE LINE OF A HIGHSCHOOL STUDENT?

I'M A SINGLE MAN.

CUCUMBER

PAFU-PAFU

CHOPCHOPCHOPCHOP

OKAY, THEN - I'LL MAKE YOU LUNCH, TOO!

DON'T CALL ME PATHETIC.

UGH

THAT HEART-SHAPE...IT'S PATHETIC WHEN YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT FOR YOURSELF.

POOR THING...

LOOK! ISN'T IT PRETTY?!

TA-DAH~

IT'S NOT THAT...!

NO!

SPLAT

SIZZLE

SCRAPE

YOU STILL THINK I CAN'T COOK, DON'T YOU?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

CHOPCHOPCHOPCHOP

WAIT, WAIT - YOU DON'T HAVE TO!!

HUH? WHAT ?!

SHE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP...

MURMUR

6-LAYER BOX LUNCH

HELP ME EAT, EVERYONE.

SCHOOL

MR. HARUHIKO...

MURMUR...

NANIWA-JIN BATTLE DIARY

I SUPPOSE...

ED.

WHENEVER I COME TO TOKYO, WE MEET AT ANMILA'S FOR A STORY CONFERENCE.

I GUESS BEING AN EDITOR MUST BE TOUGH, TOO, EH?

TAKO

THE RECORDING SESSION TOOK UP AN ENTIRE DAY —

DON'T YOU GET BORED UNLESS YOU FORGET ABOUT WORK AND LEAVE THE OFFICE SOMETIMES?

AND ONCE YOU START WITH THE MEETINGS, THAT TAKES UP TIME, TOO...

TAKO

ED.

WELL, YES, I SUPPOSE...

...

...

...

THOUGH WE MAY SEEM LIKE BIRDS OF A FEATHER, MANGA ARTISTS AND EDITORS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BEINGS. I'VE ONLY COME TO REALIZE THAT RECENTLY.

HUH!

COME TO THINK OF IT, YEAH!!

BUT, UH... YOU DO REALIZE THAT I'M WORKING RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?

PLEASE WAKE UP!

ED.

SNORE

UHH, WELL, UM...I HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THAT YET.

I HOLD CONFERENCES WITH MY MANAGING EDITOR TO DISCUSS WHAT THE NEXT PART OF THE STORY SHOULD BE ABOUT.

USUALLY AT NIGHT. OVER THE PHONE.

AND SO -

BUT SERIOUS IS NO FUN - !

ED.

THEN WE'LL HAVE MOTOKI AND HARUHIKO TURN SERIOUS -

BUT IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET MANGA IDEAS ACROSS IN MERE WORDS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NO, YOU SEE, THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES TAKING THEMSELVES SERIOUSLY.

SOMETIMES I EVEN RESORT TO ABSTRACT DESCRIPTIONS LIKE THIS.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT — !!

THIS TIME I'M GOING OZAKI!

I'M GONNA GO OZAKI ON THIS CHAPTER!!

TAKO

BUT THIS IS ALL PART OF THE PROCESS OF STORY MEETINGS.

ARRRGGHH!

ED.

...

...

...

I UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN LESS, SO PLEASE JUST REDRAW THE WHOLE THING.

ROLL ROLL ~

HE PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS AN IDIOT.

...

WHAT CAN I SAY AT THIS POINT ...

...HE WAS IMPRES-SED...

...SO WHEN I TOLD THAT STORY TO THE CHIEF EDITOR ...

ED.

I LOVE THEM. THE THOUGHT OF NORMALLY FORBIDDEN AREAS BEING SEEN...

?

I EVEN ADDRESSED THIS FOND-NESS FOR UNDER-PANTS IN THE MAIN STORY.

THINK ABOUT IT NORMALLY YOU DON'T GET TO SEE THEM!

HUFF

HUFF

TAKO

WANNA SEE -?

WHETHER IT'S TEASING OR BY ACCIDENT OR THROUGH EMBAR-RASSMENT - I DON'T MIND WHICH!!

NOT ONLY ARE SUCH COMPLEX EMOTIONS INVOLVED, BUT THERE IS ALSO THE "YOU'RE SPECIAL, SO I DON'T MIND SHOWING YOU" FACTOR

WOW... KAWACHI-SENSEI IS JUST... WOW...

...IS WHAT HE SAID. HE SEEMS TO LIVE FOR THE ONE MOMENT HE CAN DRAW UNDERPANTS...

SO BEARING ALL THAT IN MIND, THE UNDER-PANTS-ONLY STYLE IS A KNOCKOUT! IRRESISTIBLE!!

TOO IDIOTIC ...

CHIEF ED.

ED.

AND I DON'T MEAN NORMAL PANTS!

EVERYONE! WE'VE GOT TO FINISH INKING BY FOUR!

UMM, UMM, AT ONE PAGE AN HOUR...

OHHHH NOOOO, NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD! AAAGH!

WHIRL WHIRL

WHEN FACED WITH AN IMPEND-ING DEAD-LINE, WE START SETTING LIMITS BASED ON THE HOURS...

RIGHT —!

AAAAGH! HERE HE IS - THE COUNT-DOWNING EDITOR --- !!

RAWR!

ED.

PHOTOTYPE

STARTING RIGHT NOW, FINISH ONE PAGE EVERY 20 MINUTES !!

BAM!

...WHICH THEN BECOMES MINUTES.

PLEASE GIVE ME TIME.....!!

ED.

SIR... I...I...

I WANT TO SCREEN-TONE HER UNDER-PANTS?!!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

IN OUR WORKPLACE, THERE IS SUCH A THING CALLED "UNDER-PANTS TIME."

ALL RIIIIGHT --- !!!

WHSH

THEN I'LL GIVE YOU 5 MINUTES!!

ED.

TODAY I'M FINE! YOU'LL SEE - I'LL NEVER WRITE ANOTHER I.O.U. TO AN ARTIST I'M MANAGING AGAIN!

ED.

DID YOU BRING YOUR WALLET TODAY?

LIKE A GOOD ADULT ...

RECORDING SESSION, DAY 2

TAKO

SMIRK...

AWW, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... ♥

...
...

POST-SESSION, HOTEL LOBBY

ED.

WHAT'S WRONG?

?

ASSISTANT

I LEFT MY RETURN PLANE TICKET THERE ...

ED.

BAG

I'M ONLY DRAWING THINGS AS THEY ACTUALLY HAPPENED ...

HE COMPLAINED.

ED.

I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT IN YOUR BONUS PAGES LATELY.

TAKO

OH, OF COURSE YOU DON'T! YOU'RE THE SAME EDITOR WHO CALLS ME UP AND SAYS, "HUH? WHAT WAS I CALLING YOU FOR AGAIN?"!!

OF THE STUFF THAT HAPPENED ...

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER MUCH...

HOW DARE YOU! NO WAY!!

?

UMM... WHAT WAS THIS ABOUT?

ED.

ED.

I'M A NORTH-EASTERNER WITH NO PENCHANT FOR COMEDIC BANTER SO THE ONLY WAY I CAN RESPOND IS WITH WITLESS-NESS!!

SNAP TO IT!!

ALL RIGHT THEN! REDEEM YOUR-SELF!

ED.

THAT'S NOT REDEEMING!

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I'M SORRY ...

DOOM

30-MINUTE DRIVE BACK TO THE RECORDING STUDIO

ED.

OH MAN... THIS IS FUNNIER THAN MY MAIN STORY...

AT THIS POINT, I WAS LAUGHING LIKE A MADMAN... SO I'M TOLD.

KAWACHI-SENSEI I FORGOT MY WALLET...

IN-STUDIO, THE DAY OF THE DRAMA CD RECORD-ING SESSION ...

ED.

WITLESS

HUH? CARS - YOU KNOW, A CAR GAME!

DON'T ASK ME AFTER YOU'VE ALREADY APPROVED THE SCRIPT!

WHAT'S THIS "GREEN MOON" REFERENCE?

ON CHAPTER 28, "FIRST LOVE"

?

TAKO

ED.

IT'S JUST TOO TROUBLESOME TO EXPLAIN... AND SINCE IT SEEMS TO BE AN OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY OCCUPATION, PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK TONS OF QUESTIONS.

BUT I MUST SEEM REALLY ODD TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW... WANDERING ABOUT DURING THE DAY...OR CONSTANTLY COOPED UP LIKE A HERMIT IN MY HOUSE...

UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, I MAKE IT A POINT NEVER TO BRING UP THE FACT THAT I DRAW MANGA.

WHITE PLATES = 0 POINTS
YELLOW PLATES = 1 POINT
GREEN PLATES = 3 POINTS
BLACK PLATES = RESET

YOU ADD UP POINTS FOR THE DIFFERENT-COLORED LICENSE PLATES YOU SPOT.

DIDN'T YOU PLAY IT WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE KID?

IT'S JUST A KID'S GAME, BUT?

IF YOU GET A TOTAL OF 100 POINTS, YOU'LL FIND TRUE HAPPINESS.

IT'S LIKE THE GAME WHERE YOU ONLY STEP ON THE WHITE STRIPES ON A CROSSWALK.

TAKO

OKAAAY

BUT -

APART FROM YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS OR PEOPLE WHO ARE REALLY UNDERSTANDING...

IT'S A PAIN, SO TRY TO AVOID MENTIONING IT - OKAY?

I'VE EVEN INSTRUCTED MY ASSISTANTS.

W-WELL, I'M SURE PEOPLE FROM OSAKA KNOW ABOUT IT!!

WHAT?!

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT...

FROM YAMAGATA

TAKO

FLINCH!

ED.

SOME MIDDLE-AGED LADY I DIDN'T KNOW SAW AND ASKED ME, "IS THAT MANGA?"

ATON

ASSISTANT

WHEN I WENT DOWN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE TO MAKE COPIES OF THE MANUSCRIPT...

WAS IT JUST A SUPER-LOCAL GAME, THEN...?!!

WE'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT...

OSAKA OSAKA CHIBA SHIGA

AS SIS TA NTS

TAKO

I'M SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING BUYING MY OWN COPY MACHINE... WHICH WOULD MAKE ME EVEN MORE HERMIT-LIKE AND WITHDRAWN...

UH...BUT IN THAT SITUATION, IT'S EVEN WEIRDER TO SAY "NO"...

WHAT ELSE IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE...?

SO I JUST SAID, "NO."

#

THEY SAY THAT PEOPLE WITH BLOOD-TYPE A ARE FASTIDIOUS, BUT THAT'S GOTTA BE A LIE.

I'M LATE FOR MEETINGS, TOO (NOT GOOD).

I CAN SLEEP FOREVER.

I'M ALSO LAZY.

ZZZ~

TAKO

NOT THAT I BELIEVE IN THOSE BLOOD-TYPE PERSONALITY TEST THINGS...

IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE ~

SPEAKING OF TROUBLESOME THINGS, HERE'S ANOTHER. I AM A BORN SHIRKER, TO THE POINT WHERE IT'S ALMOST PATHOLOGICAL.

ALWAYS SAYING IT

TAKO

SO, WHAT IS IT YOU DO FOR A LIVING AGAIN?

OKAY —

HAIR COLOR-ING, PLEASE.

STYLIST

AT THE HAIR SALON —

AND A CUT, TOO!

NOT THAT AGAIN!

TAKO

I OBJECT.

ABOUT COLOR PAGES -...

ED.

I DON'T LIKE WORKING WITH COLOR...

IT'S EMBARRASSING —

I'M THE TYPE THAT TRIES TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT SOUNDS COMPLICATED OR UNAPPEALING.

YOU HAVE MORE THAN BEFORE...

UH...

...GRAY HAIRS...

STYLIST

CRASH

IT WAS TOO TROUBLESOME. I DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO TURN ANYTHING IN.

FROM ELEMENTARY ALL THE WAY UP TO HIGH-SCHOOL, I NEVER ONCE FINISHED MY SUMMER HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS.

HOW BAD, YOU SAY?

ED.

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'VE ONLY JUST NOW STARTED USING THE BRAIN YOU NEVER USED BEFORE.

YOU SAID YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THOSE...

I'VE JOINED THE RANKS OF FELLOW TYPE-A'S!!

!!

I MUST BE SUFFER-ING FROM STRESS, TOO!

AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MUST BE"?

FRIEND

I HATE DEAD-LINES...

ATTEN-TION ALL GOOD CHILDREN: DO NOT IMITATE.

FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE UP FOR ALL YOU NEGLECTED TO DO AS A STUDENT.

ED.

TAKO